

EMIGRATION
FROM THE
BRITISH ISLES;

BY

Capt. ROBERT McVICAR.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

TO THE EDITOR OF THE

NEW YORK TRIBUNE

DEAR SIR,

NEW YORK
JAN 10 1846

I have the honor to acknowledge

the receipt of your letter

of the 8th inst.

HC
M1764k

LETTERS ON EMIGRATION

FROM THE BRITISH ISLES,

AND THE

SETTLEMENT OF THE WASTE LANDS

IN THE

PROVINCE OF CANADA,

1896 37

27.5.24

BY ROBERT McVICAR, Esquire.

H A M I L T O N :

PUBLISHED BY S. HEWSON, KING STREET,

—
1853.



INTRODUCTION.

THE Author of these Letters, having been frequently addressed, and earnestly solicited by a great number of his friends, who occupy high positions in society, both at home and abroad, to publish, for the information of the Public, his Correspondence with the Canadian Government, on the subject of Emigration, &c., has at length been induced to yield to their reiterated request; and in compliance with their wishes, now presents to the Public that portion of his Correspondence which is more immediately connected with the subject of Emigration, and settlement of the Huron Tract, which dates from 1842 to 1847.

No doubt but many will very naturally observe,—What good can now result from the publication of these Letters at this late period?—to which the author would reply—that the subject matter contained and set forth in these letters, &c., bears as much, even at this present time, on emigration, and settlement of the waste lands in Canada, as when they were first penned—and that there can be no true and genuine intelligent Loyal Patriot living, within the limits of the province, who can for a moment view, with any other feelings than those of painful disgust, the impolitic and ruinous course which our Canadian Government pursued during the last twelve years—a course which in its destructive tendency paralyzed every loyal feeling in Canada, and caused the current of Emigration from the British Isles to flow to the Seaports of the United States—not to mention the vast number of families from all sections of the Province that have been yearly removing, for the last thirteen years, to our neighboring rivals. Instance the undeniable truths which are re-

corded in the Public Registers kept at the different Sea-ports in the United states, during the last five years; which will show that forty millions of pounds sterling (principally in gold) were carried there by emigrants from the United Kingdom of Great Britain. When to this is added the vast strength and wealth which that already overgrown Republic is receiving yearly from Canada, the subject becomes painfully melancholy, and truly harassing to the feelings of every true and loyal patriot in Her Britannic Majesty's Dominions—even to contemplate—more particularly when the immense and valuable resources of this hitherto ill-fated Province, are duly considered and born in mind—so many millions of acres of fertile soil, in a salubrious country such as the Huron Tract containing twenty-two Townships, is well known to be, the greatest part of which remains at this very day in a state of unproductive wilderness.—The author's fondest hope, and most sanguine expectation, would be fully realized should the publication of this work be the means of calling the serious attention of the inhabitants of the Province to the different subjects upon which it treats; and induce them hereafter to adopt such measures as in their wisdom they may deem best calculated to prevent a farther extension of the evils that have already so evidently resulted from, and are still growing out of, the unbecoming apathy (to use the mildest term) which has been hitherto observed on the part of the Canadian Government, with respect to this all-important subject,—emigration and settlement of the Waste Lands of the Province, upon which the future destiny of Canada wholly depends—whether it will continue an integral portion of the British Empire or not.

Montreal, 25th April, 1842.

My dear Sir,

I have been this moment informed that you are invested with authority to plant a Colony in the Huron Tract. I hope this report is true, and in that event I shall feel anxious to compare notes with you, as I am about taking measures preparatory to escorting a number of my Highland Friends both at home and abroad to the Shores of Lake Huron this season. The class of people who will accompany me as well as those who are making arrangements to follow are of a high order;—we shall have our own Ministers, Schoolmasters, Doctors, Surveyors, and tradesmen of every description, such as may be required in settling a new Colony. I have made a Tour through the Huron Tract last summer and satisfied myself touching the valuable resources of that portion of the wilds of Canada so far as to induce me to come to the determination of settling there for life, provided that I shall receive any reasonable encouragement from Government to whom I am about applying; but as you are, as report says, invested with the Commission of settling that Country, I shall await your answer before doing so. Let me therefore intreat that you will be pleased to convey me your views and sentiments soon after you receive this as possible, in order that I may take my measures accordingly.

My claim on your friendly pulse as a countryman and an old acquaintance induces the hope that you will

favour me with a reply at your earliest convenience,
and with sentiments of the highest consideration.

I remain, my dear Sir,

Your's truly,

ROB'T McVICAR.

To Colonel Fraser, }
 &c., &c., &c. }

Fraserfield, Glengarry, 30th April, 1842.

My dear Sir,

I had much pleasure in receiving your letter of the 25th instant, as it affords me great satisfaction to hear that you are likely to become a settler in the Huron Tract as well as that you will direct the description of Settlers to it that you mention, which if you do, cannot fail to give the settlement a character equal to any part of the Province. I think about 500 Scotch will follow me from Glengarry several of whom have been seeing the Country, and on their return have disposed of their property even at a nominal price.

As you have been there, I need not tell you the advantages it has in its fine climate and excellent Fisheries. My present undertaking with the Government is the settlement of Owen Sound to which a road has been opened last year from Oakville, and a plank road will be made to it from Lake Simcoe next year.

There are about 23 Townships in the Tract the whole of which I expect will be under my superintendence ; I can therefore assure you that I shall put aside a Township, Fronting on the lake for you and your followers, in which I shall take a lively interest. I purpose leaving this on the 20th May, and should be most happy could you make it convenient to accompany me, so as to make your choice of a location for yourself, not an acre has yet been granted to any person and I am fully authorized to dispossess all squatters which I shall undoubtedly do, as I feel confident they have taken possession of what appeared to them the best situation. The price of the land has been fixed at 8s. per acre, Cy., Cash. I shall, however, have it in my power to grant poor settlers that may wish to settle on the roads leading to the Sound 50 acres each ; say a family of three sons 21 years of age, who with their father, might receive 200 acres gratis: it is my intention to erect Mills where the Town is laid out and I shall bestow on persons of Capital good Mill Sites in convenient places throughout the tract. I shall be glad to hear from you and will thank you to let me know how many settlers I may expect to follow you this season, and how soon. I think the best route at present will be by Lake Simcoe as the road and water communication are good, besides there are upwards of 500 settlers in the Townships of St. Vincent, on the map called Zero, to which a good road from Lake Simcoe has been made. When the Plank Road

is finished, one day may bring us from Toronto to the spot.

Believe me to remain,

Your's truly,

ALEXANDER FRASER.

Rob't McVicar, Esq.

Montreal, 9th May, 1842.

My dear Sir,

It is with feelings of the most unfeigned pleasure I take up the pen to acknowledge the receipt of your very kind and friendly communication of the 30th ultimo. The invitation therein contained to accompany you to Owen Sound I most cheerfully accept, and if spared will be at Fraser's Field on the 19th inst. I would have replied to your favour at an earlier date were I really not overwhelmed with a pressure of business of a nature so serious to my ulterior movements as not to leave me a moment to spare to address you, and even to this late hour my mind is so involved in the winding up of my private affairs in the province, preparatory to our contemplated journey to the shores of Lake Huron, that I am unable to convey to you my opinions touching the arduous and philanthropic undertaking in which you have embarked so satisfactorily as I would have wished; however, when we meet I shall submit to your consideration all my views and plans candidly and sincerely ;

In the meantime permit me to assure you that so far as the utmost exertions both of my mind and body are capable of, to further and promote your views as well as the best interests of the Colony, I shall be unwearied, and you may at all times under any circumstances safely rely on receiving my most cordial co-operation and support, in the adoption and execution of every measure calculated to raise the character of the settlement above that of any other in the Province of Canada. Immediately after your Letter reached me I opened an extensive correspondence with the different sections of this District, and circumstantially explained to the Inhabitants thereof the superior quality of soil, advantage of climate and productive fisheries of the waters, of the Huron settlement together with its numerous water privileges for Mills and Machinery of every description, &c., and in order to direct the course of the emigrants coming out this year to the settlement, I have employed competent persons in Quebec and Montreal to give them the necessary instructions as to the route by which they are to proceed to Owen Sound. I have also secured the best services of all the Steam Boat Captains and Crews plying on the Ottawa Waters, to instruct and advise all classes of people travelling to the Upper Province for the purpose of settling there, to proceed direct to the Huron Settlement. Report states that nearly 500 families from my native Island, (Islay) are coming out this year, all of them will doubtlessly proceed

to the settlement direct, as the whole host of their relatives and Countrymen in the Townships of Caledon, Esquesing, Thora, and many other places in the vicinity of Toronto, as well as all the Highlanders, Crews of Boats, &c., employed on the Waters to and from this to and above Toronto will repair to the Huron Settlement this ensuing autumn and winter, and should they find the picture which I have drawn of that interesting part of the country correct, and meet with reasonable protection during the first two years from Government, thousands of their friends and countrymen at home will follow them next year; hence the necessity there is of taking the necessary and timely measures to obviate the possibility of the poor and destitute families who go there this season, suffering next winter from the want of food. The fisheries of Lake Huron are sufficiently productive to enable the Government at a mere nominal expense to procure any quantity of Fish that may be required to feed ten times as many families as can be expected to settle this year. I should therefore most respectfully but candidly, offer it as my opinion, that it would be advisable for you to direct your early attention to the important object, in taking precautionary measures to ensure the certainty of having *one, two or three* Fisheries established in different parts of the Lake, on the same unerring system as the Fisheries at the Hudson's Bay Posts in the Indian Country. These Fisheries I would superintend myself at least for the

first season, and for the effectual accomplishment of this object it would be necessary to take one or two experienced fishermen from this Province. I have already partially engaged one who has been for eight or nine years employed as head Fisherman in Lake Superior in the service of the American Fur Company, and who is perfect master of drying and salting Fish in all the departments required. Should you deem it proper that I should employ this individual at moderate wages for the year have the goodness to say so, and I shall secure his valuable services at once, and by your directions will gladly provide the necessary supply of materials for nets &c., &c., which will amount to but a trifling sum of money. As to the exact number of actual settlers that will follow me this season it is impossible for me to say, but I have no hesitation in stating that in the event of your investing me with full power, holding out reasonable encouragement to the stranger to draw settlers to the Huron Tract, you might safely calculate on one thousand settlers a year for a number of years to come. No confidence can be placed on the miserable useless sort of Emigrant Agents at present under Government pay in this Province, and I have much cause to apprehend that many of the same class are holding similar offices in the Upper Province, to the manifest injury of this Country; and I may, without any fear of contradiction add, the destruction of thousands of industrious families who were compelled to quit their

homes and that of their ancestors by direful necessity, in the expectation of finding that protection in the Wilds of Canada under the fostering wing of the British Government which their own native land so unnaturally denied them. The views of these office holders do not extend beyond the consideration of the yearly salary which they receive from the Government. Beneficial advice and instruction to the forlorn stranger who visits the shores of Canada in search of a home they are not capable of imparting, because they do not possess the necessary knowledge of the resources of the Country, and much less benevolent traits of character to enable them to do so. It cannot be therefore reasonably expected that such persons will take the slightest interest in the welfare of the poor broken hearted stranger. To the voice of distress they evince a callous indifference; in consequence of meeting with such frozen and icy reception at the hands of the officers of the crown, those poor strangers become weakened and disheartened, misery and starvation ensue, and from this source thousands of industrious and Loyal British Subjects after visiting our shores, are left to their unfortunate and malancholy doom, to wander about from one place to another in search of employment or a home, till at length their little all is exhausted and in the last gasp of despair, as the only alternative left them, how repugnant soever it may be to their British feelings, throw themselves on the protection of the American

Government. By this criminal neglect our strength in this fertile colony is weakened by making it a nursery to supply the Army and Navy of the United States with the best of our British subjects.

Viewing the important task which you have undertaken, the settling twenty three Townships, in all its bearings, tendencies and relations, it appears to me evident that there is an absolute necessity for your employing an Agent to secure from the grasp of the Vultures employed by the Canada Land Company and conduct to the Huron Settlement the different flocks of Emigrants expected from the old country this and following seasons. In the absence of a more qualified person to perform the duties of this important appointment I beg to tender my feeble but friendly services.

Reserving to our meeting on the 19th instant, further remarks and suggestions, I remain with sentiments of the greatest regard,

My dear Sir,

Your's most truly,

ROB'T McVICAR.

To Colonel Fraser, }
&c., &c., &c. }

Cornwall, 11th, May, 1842.

My dear Sir,

I was this moment handed your letter of the 9th instant, and I am much pleased at your determination of accompanying me to Owen Sound. I shall not leave before the 22nd, therefore if you are up by the 19th or 20th it will be time enough. On the 24th I make my final arrangement with the Government, and which day I trust we shall be able to make a good one. I have already engaged an experienced fisherman on whom I can depend and several others of the same cast will accompany me, so that it may not be necessary at present to engage the person you allude to. I can no doubt procure twine at Toronto, and in the event we find the Government liberal I agree with you in opinion that an active person should be employed to direct Emigrants on their arrival to the settlement at once. All this we shall be prepared to submit on going to Kingston.

Your's truly,

ALEXANDER FRASER.

Rob't McVicar, Esq.

Montreal, 20th May, 1842.

My dear Sir,

It is with feelings of deep regret I have to acquaint you that circumstances of the most unavoidable necessity over which I could have no controul, places it beyond my

power to accompany you to Owen Sound. Being deprived of this pleasure has proved most painful to my feelings; I shall however, follow you the very moment I can leave this place. The long pending litigation in which I was engaged in Quebec is at length decided in my favor, holding forth some prospects of my being able to carry to the new settlement sufficient means to support my family for at least a few years. This new change in my favor is the cause of my detention here. About the 10th proximo I shall hope to have all the matters connected with this important case completely wound up, and accompanied by some followers will proceed direct to the shores of the Lake. I have already shipped off several respectable families with instructions to take the route by Lake Simcoe—I hope you will overtake them and direct them to the Townships you intend for myself and followers. To your own friendly judgement I leave the selection of the Townships. I have printed cards of information and instruction which will guide the stranger to the spot of their destination. Before leaving Fraser's field have the goodness to address me so that I may know where to find you when I do move up. I would also feel thankful by your imparting to me the actual extent of the protection which destitute settlers may expect to receive at the hands of the Government, in order that I may act accordingly.

For your information I subjoin a copy of a letter which I have this moment received from my Brother. Pray are those who settle on the shores of the lake en-

titled to 50 acres gratis? if not, I fear the distinction will operate injuriously against your views. As I shall be addressing you ere many days I shall close these hasty lines, and with the highest regards I remain,

My dear Sir,

Your's most faithfully,

ROB'T McVICAR.

To the Honorable }
Alexander Fraser. }

Montreal, 30th May, 1842.

Rob't McVicar, Esq.,

Sir,

I understand from many sources that you possess a thorough knowledge of the capabilities of the wilds of Canada West, and that you are taking an active and philanthropic interest in sending Emigrants to settle there under the protection of the British Government on the shores of Owen Sound. I have long had reason to believe that the Huron Tract would prove an eligible home to the industrious or monied surplus population of the old country. It will only want a few years steady support and fostering care from the Home Government, with the active local assistance of well informed and enterprising men in directing the tide of emigration, to become one of the richest Jewels in the British Colonial Crown.

That these views may be the more effectually carried

into execution allow me, though a comparative stranger to you, to tender you humbly a few hints of advice, and to plead as my excuse for such intrusion, my warm wishes for the welfare and happiness of my fellow-man, knowing that such feelings will touch a responsive chord in your bosom.

It will be of the greatest advantage and benefit, both spiritually and temporally to your new settlement, to make early arrangements for securing Ministers of the Gospel, and competent School Teachers. You ought also to secure well qualified Medical men to look after the bodily wants and diseases of your settlers immediately upon their arrival; of this you must at once see the indispensable necessity. If you could induce the Government to secure to me such remuneration as might induce me to leave my present practice, and insure me the means of supporting myself and family I shall go with you, and if all turn out as I expect I can bring out from Banff and Aberdeenshire, in course of the second year, at least from 80 to 100 families with plenty of means and appliances to boot.

With regard to my own testimonials of character and competency, I have only to say that I have been upwards of eight years in the north of Scotland and four years here, in the full exercise of my profession; and, if required, can produce satisfactory certificates from many of the most respectable individuals both at home and here. With regard to professional education I have only to refer

to diplomas now in my possession, or to the records of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, and London Colleges.

If you should think of employing my services, be kind enough to grant me as early an answer as is possibly convenient, in order that I may be able to make early arrangements to meet the occasion.

I am Sir,

Your most ob't Servant,

AL. SCOTT.

To Rob't McVicar, Esq.,

22nd June, 184 .

My dear Sir,

Notwithstanding I took all the trouble and pains possible to see the Honb'le Mr. Sullivan in the course of the day, I regret to say that I failed. He goes up to-morrow by the stage, and I shall meet him at Lachine where I shall communicate all to you.

Your's truly,

ALEXANDER FRASER.

Mr. McVicar.

Montreal, 23rd June, 1842.

My dear Sir,

Colonel Fraser left this yesterday for the express purpose of meeting Mr. Sullivan at Lachine, who, it ap-

pears is invested with full power to close a final settlement or complete an arrangement with the Colonel touching the settlement of the Huron Tract. The terms and considerations of the Colonel are so severe that the Government seems to evince an unwillingness to comply with them, and it is my opinion that an arrangement between them will not take place. I shall hope to receive a despatch from him (Fraser,) to-morrow, conveying every particular which may have taken place between him and Mr. Sullivan, and, in the event of no arrangement having been effected between the parties, in that case I would wish to consult you as to the propriety of my following the Governor General in order to have a personal interview with him in Quebec. It is to be regretted that the Petition was not presented at an earlier date; it is now, however, too late to complain and we must do the best we can. Will you have the goodness to say- when it will be convenient for you to favor me with an interview, and with every kind wish believe me, with sentiments of the highest consideration,

My dear Sir,

Ever your's truly and faithfully,

ROB'T McVICAR.

Lewis T. Drummond, Esq.,

To the Editor of the Montreal Herald:

Sir,

I feel assured that a fellow feeling will induce you to devote occasionally a column of your widely circulated

journal to the publication of a few Letters intended humbly, but with a heart warmly devoted to the happiness and the best interests of my fellow-men, to draw the attention of the public in general but more particularly of the numerous Emigrants daily disembarking on our wharves, to the subject of Emigration into Canada.

When the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, is groaning under the weight of a population too numerous to be supported on their native soil, it would argue a want of loyalty and philanthropy, in any British subject intimately acquainted with the resources of Canada, to withhold from the Government and the people, a full development of all he knows regarding its easy capabilities of becoming a prosperous and happy home to all Emigrants, willing and determined to live under the sway of the British sceptre, and a nursery for rearing up Sons, who both on *flood* and *field* will add fresh strength to the parent country, and bind new laurels around the British Crown.

During last summer, I travelled over a large portion of the Huron Tract for the express purpose of developing its various resources, and, after a careful examination of the capabilities of the soil, with the signal advantage of the genial climate, for the purpose of agriculture, and of the Waters for the establishment of Mills and Fisheries, I feel it my duty publicly to record my belief, that, with a few years fostering care from Government, and proper management on the part of

its Agents, the Huron Tract is destined to become the Garden of Canada West.

In my next I shall enter into details.

I remain, Dear Sir,

Your ob't Servant,

ROB'T McVICAR.

To the Editor of the Montreal Herald :

Sir.

Another season has opened upon us, and the tide of Immigration seems to have set in towards our shores with increasing force.

The redundant population of Great Britain and Ireland must find a channel in some direction or other, and British North America holds out the greatest inducements. Thousands of Immigrants have already landed on our wharves, and in all probability tens of thousands are yet to follow ere the close of the season.

This might be a source of the highest gratification to every genuine Patriot, who ardently desires to see the connection between this country and the parent State fixed more firmly, by the prosperous settlement of persons who, if I may so speak, have been ejected from the land of their nativity, for want of room or for want of employment. But the question is painfully forced upon our minds. Is this likely to be the case under the present system of things? Alas, the answer is apparent.

The experience of years is thrown away ; and the year forty-two finds us as destitute of any system by which the great ends of Immigration may be attained, and the interests of all parties consulted, as we were ten years ago. It is true that Immigrant Agencies have been established, at the principal landing places under the auspices of Government, and sums of money expended that leave no doubt of the good intentions of Government on the subject. But the question still recurs, how far the interests of Emigration are served by the means and money at present set apart for that purpose ?

The present system, if such it should be called, may be briefly stated : It consists in printing a number of hand Bills, and posting them up in conspicuous places, directing Emigrants where the Agent's Office may be found ; in putting a few advertisements in the Newspapers, soliciting information from persons at a distance, and, in sending poor Emigrants to their destination ; and when the Boatmen have pushed off their Boat, and the Emigrant is gone from among us, so that we no longer see his wants, nor hear his cry of distress, the feeling seems to be, that all that is necessary is done for him. But where is the Emigrant's destination ? Alas, who can tell ! Does he know it himself, or is the Emigrant Agent more wise ? Does *he* know it ? no, Sir, neither of them can tell. The Emigrant, generally speaking, is driven to seek a home in this distant region,

either by immediate necessity, or by gloomy foreboding of coming want.

Few come to Canada for the purpose of spending a fortune, but many are induced to come in the hope of acquiring one, but in what particular way or place the fortune is to be made, is a subject upon which the Emigrant has scarcely ventured to bestow a thought. He arrives in Canada with very little knowledge of the Country and with less capital. He finds himself a stranger in a strange land, without resources, and without the necessary information to enable him, to turn his time to the best account. Then the poor Emigrant feels the sad reality of his position. He applies for counsel at the Agency Office, and he is there told he can be forwarded up the Country. He has probably heard some one say that By-town, Kingston, or Toronto is a good place, and this is enough to induce him to proceed to the place, to which his hopes have been already directed. But here he finds himself surrounded by Thousands who, like himself, have been attracted to the good place, the shadow flies before him; thus, Mr Editor, Emigrants are tossed about from place to place, along the great thoroughfare of the Province, without any fixed purpose, and without having their minds drawn to any fixed object, till sickened by disappointment, many cross over to our neighbouring States, while not a few, sink under accumulating misfortunes.

I shall resume this subject with your permission, and

shall in future Letters, point out the deficiencies in the present system. I shall also suggest a system of Emigration which I trust shall be found to be strictly practical, having for its object, the permanent and prosperous settlement of all industrious Emigrants, and at the same time, of fully securing the interests of all parties concerned. Emigration will prove, if conducted on a proper basis, the sovereign remedy for our political disorder. It will relieve Great Britain and Ireland of a useless and redundant population, and prove the Sheet Anchor of the parent State by which, this Colony will be permanently and indissolubly connected to it.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant,

PHILANTHROPY.

To the Editor of the Montreal Herald :

Sir.

In your Journal of Thursday, I was pleased to find a long and sensible Letter on the subject of Emigration into this Colony, signed "Philanthropy." I enter fully into your Correspondent's views as far as they extend, regarding the protection and instruction necessary to be afforded by Government, to all Emigrants on their arrival at the Ports of Quebec and Montreal. The agents at those Ports, capable of directing the tide of Immigration into useful channels,

so as to meet the liberal intentions of Government in settling the Waste Lands of Canada, must be active, intelligent, and Philanthropic men, well acquainted with all the sections and resources of the country ; who, thus qualified, will be able to direct monied settlers to advantageous locations, and with necessary Government funds placed at their command, to forward destitute Immigrants comfortably to an eligible destination.

It is not at By-Town, Kingston, or Toronto however, that either of these Emigrants will find it most advantageous to remain, no ; from my intimate knowledge of the Huron Tract, and of the liberal Terms on which Government have decided to settle that part of its possession, I sincerely advise all Emigrants, especially Agriculturists, to proceed to Owen Sound without delay, as soon as the Government has caused to be surveyed and laid out convenient Lots of Land, on which the settler can immediately commence operations, to build for himself and family a house and home, with lands in his power, to clear for the reception of the seeds of next year's Crops. Government has fixed the price of its lands, to those who can pay for them, at 8s. per acre, but to families destitute of means, who may chose to settle on the line of roads leading to the shores of the Lake, Government will grant to any young man over 14 years of age capable of wielding the axe, 50 acres of land, say a family of five sons who with their father will receive 300 acres in one block, but I would recommend to the Government, to grant to the venerable parent

100 acres more, as a provision for the wants of his declining years, and a support to the female members of his family. The title deeds for this *bonus*. I should strongly recommend to be granted, after the expiration of the first year's possession, provided the settlers have within that time, cleared ready for cropping a proportion of 6 acres to the 100. These terms are certainly liberal on the part of the Government, but its agents must be strictly watched, and when found incapable of discharging the duties of their office for the public good, let them be discharged, and their places filled by men competent to meet the requisite responsibility. Allow me here to quote a few extracts from a Settler's letter dated Norval, 17th June, 1842 :—

“ I remain as I was when you saw me here, out
“ of pay and out of business. The Government owes me
“ £62 11s. 11d. The settlement, for advances out of my
“ own pocket, for the public—good, owes me about one
“ hundred pounds, and all monies having been kept back
“ from individuals by government, is much to the hurt of
“ the prosperity of this section of the Colony, and renders
“ repayment to me in the meantime impossible. I hope
“ you will intercede for me, as I would like to get into my
“ old situation. My sons and I will go to the Bay, and I
“ think as many as 20 Families will follow us, but I shall
“ make no movements until I see you”.

“ The fine Saw Mill you saw in progress at Arthur
“ has been allowed to stand still and do nothing, ever since

“ October last, upon a mere quibble of dispute between
“ the agent and the person who leased it.”

“ No sales of land allowed here, and many a man had
“ to return with the money in his pocket in consequence.
“ Many a fine loyalist had to return from this place,
“ *Arthur*, without having had an opportunity of acquiring
“ a lot of land while real rebels of the worst kind, got
“ some two, and some three lots each; this is a hard
“ saying, but I think him no friend to government who
“ would not expose such conduct.”

Previous to the receipt of the above, I had advised a great number of families, each possessing from £200 to £600 stg, to proceed to the Huron Tract in the firm faith, that, whatever lands they wished to purchase would at once be apportioned to them,—you may imagine the painful nature of my feelings, when I contemplate the reception they are likely to meet with. Many others who have arrived here since, in equally good circumstances I have been obliged to shun, in order that I might not be tempted to mislead them. That is bad enough, but suppose the passengers of any one of the six vessels, lately reported, as taking in at Greenock a full complement of Emigrants for different ports in America, in such a state of destitution, as to depend on public Charity for the means of subsistence on their voyage across the Atlantic, were landed on the wharves of Montreal, what earthly provision has been made for them? I see nothing ready to meet them but misery and starvation, but it is time

to drop the curtain upon such a lamentable picture, and to implore the Government to look behind it.

I am, Sir,

Your ob't Servant,

A SETTLER.

Montreal, July, 2nd, 1842.

Fraserfield, 7th July, 1842.

My dear Sir,

Your Letter of the 2nd instant and that of the Commissioner of Crown Lands was received by me yesterday, and I lose no time in sending you a copy. From its contents, you may judge how unpleasant it is to be kept in a state of suspense. I could not find the Hon'ble W. Sullivan previous to my leaving Montreal, neither did I meet him at Lachine, else I would have written to you. My own opinion is, that the Council will determine to keep the new settlement under their own mismanagement, rather than grant me the conditions I have asked, and without which I shall not undertake it. Under these circumstances, it will be more prudent for you and I to refrain from holding out any encouragement to intending settlers to that part of the Province. The moment the decision of the Council is communicated to me, I shall inform you of the result

Believe me to remain in haste,

Your's truly,

ALEXANDER FRASER.

Rob't McVicar, Esq.

Crown Lands Department, 4th July, 1842.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a Letter addressed by you to His Excellency, on the 21st of June, 1842, which has been referred to this department; and to acquaint you that as it embraces so much new matter, it cannot be disposed of without submitting it to the consideration of the Council, which cannot be done until the members re-assemble at Kingston.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most ob't servant,

JOHN DAVIDSON.

The Hon'ble Colonel FRASER.

Montreal, 10th July, 1842.

My dear Drummond,

Having wearied my very soul out of patience awaiting your return, now that you have arrived will you do me the favor to say at what hour this evening or to morrow morning, I can have the pleasure of seeing you, as I have much of importance to communicate. The Government will not grant the extent of Colonel Fraser's demand, consequently he will have nothing further to do with the Huron Tract Settlement. There are hun-

dreds in the field about soliciting what he has refused. His support he has promised me. My wish is to see his Excellency in person. On this point your advice is indispensable and no time is to be lost. I sincerely trust your amiable mother and Cousin are enjoying the blessings of good health, and with every good wish,

I remain,

My dear Drummond,

Ever your's most truly,

ROB'T. McVICAR.

Lewis T. Drummond, Esq.

To the Editor of the Montreal Herald :

Sir,

When Lake Huron and its tributary streams are teeming with fish, in such abundance as at a very trifling outlay could easily be made to supply thousands of settlers, with not only a healthy but a luxurious meal, and the surplus produce of the Fisheries made a valuable article for exportation ; when the Shores of the Lake and the adjacent country are capable of yielding, to the Agriculturist, an eligible field where he may reap a rich reward for his industry, and when the Home Government holds out to the starving thousands, who can neither find employment nor room to enable them to live on their native soil, a readily available and happy home, in

this part of the British dominions, on the liberal terms mentioned in my last letter; every right thinking man must wonder and deplore that so many hundreds of Emigrants are daily landed on our wharves, and afterwards huddled together in such masses with such miserable accommodation as is sufficient to breed a pestilence, and that our Provincial Government does not see the immediate necessity of providing a safe and quick transit for all Emigrants to the place of their destination, where lands ought to be ready to be apportioned on a day's warning to both the monied and the poor settler.

The distress I have to day witnessed at the Emigrant Sheds has induced me hurriedly to pen the foregoing remarks, and my only motive for so doing is the amelioration of misery to my fellow men. The same feelings prompts me to suggest to the Government the necessity of its interference, in protecting the public against the accidents which so frequently occur from high pressure steam Engines. It has long been known that the danger of bursting between high and low pressure Engines is as $4\frac{1}{2}$ to one. Your details of the awful and heart rending circumstances attending the blowing up of the Shamrock yesterday, must plead my excuse for troubling the Government with the above suggestion.

You will soon hear from me again, mean time

I am, &c., &c.,

A SETTLER.

10th July, 1842.

Montreal, 19th July, 1842.

My dear Drummond,

I was twice at your office yesterday. At the time of my first visit you were engaged, at my second you were absent at court. Your contemplated interview with his Excellency will, I am satisfied, be productive of much good, not only to my personal interests but also to the thousands that are now starving on our shores, as well as to the hundreds of families who, possessing means, I have been instrumental in sending to the Huron Tract this season and who, after experiencing much toil and misery, accompanied with heavy and vexatious expense were under the necessity of returning in consequence of the Government Agents there having neither the power, nor probably the will, to locate them on lands which they were both willing and able to pay for *Cash down*. It is a lamentable state of things, that that fine Tract of Land on the shores and vicinity of Lake Huron lies dormant, and has virtually been a dead Letter to the Crown, since it was purchased from the Indians during the administration of Sir Francis Bond Head, whereas by judicious management during a few years, it might become the most important and valuable Section of the British dominions on the Continent of America. Do draw the immediate attention of his Excellency to the "Letters of the Settler" in the *Herald* news paper, and to those in the same paper signed "Philanthropy" and to the Editorial remarks. I am pledged to

upwards of a thousand respectable families, both at home and here, to see them comfortably located in the land of Promise. A reasonable remuneration for my services, sufficient to support my family from the appearance of want, is all that I look for. Should the Government feel disposed to meet my moderate views, I have no hesitation in pledging myself, if spared life and health, that before the expiration of ten years from this date I will have settled to the satisfaction of the Government and the perfect comfort and happiness of the settlers every acre of the Twenty three Townships in the Huron Tract. Touching references as to character, experience and capability for the faithful discharge of the arduous duties of an undertaking of such an important nature, please to direct the attention of His Excellency the Governor General to the narratives of the first and second land arctic expedition under the command of my friend Sir John Franklin, now Governor of Van Diemens Land. Also to the narrative of Lieutenant Ingal commander of the exploring expedition via the River St. Maurice. in the Summer of 1829, and if further reference be required application can be made to

The Hon'ble Matthew Bell, *Three Rivers.*

“ “ Baron Grant, *Montreal.*

“ “ Alex'r Fraser, *Glengarry.*

“ “ Alex'r Grant, *L'Orignal.*

The McNab of McNab, *Ottawa.*

Peter Warren Dease, Esq., Commander of the expedition to explore the North West Passage.

Alex'r Buchanan, Esq. Queen's Council, Montreal. The members of the Bar of Montreal, all the inhabitants of the County of Two Mountains, among whom I resided for Ten Years, and to the Inhabitants of all the Scotch Settlements in Canada West.

I feel convinced that all your principles are based upon a heartfelt wish to do good to your fellow creatures, thousands of whom are at this moment suffering under the scorpion lash of neglect and absolute want on our Shores, and that you will not withhold from His Excellency the information which it is in your power to impart, so well calculated to enable him to accomplish the important object of his mission to this hitherto neglected and convulsed Province.

For my own part, I am as I have ever been ready and willing to espouse the cause of humanity, and to exert every energy of mind and nerve of body, with which God has endowed me, in endeavouring to ameliorate the heart-rending distress under the pressure of which so many of my fellow beings are now groaning.

Soliciting the favor of a few lines from you at your earliest convenience after your interview with the Governor General,

I remain, my dear Drummond,

Ever your's faithfully,

Lewis T. Drummond, Esq.

ROB'T McVICAR.

Kingston, December, 7th, 1842.

My dear Sir,

I arrived here on Sunday evening, and called on my friend Mr. Buchette, the Deputy Surveyor General, with whom I am staying, at the Boarding House of Mr. Warry, Wellington Buildings, Wellington Street. On Monday morning I proceeded to the Government House, and had a long interview with my friend Captain Bagot, I was extremely sorry to find His Excellency Sir Charles Bagot had been so ill on Friday that the family and himself thought he was dying; however, since then he has been daily gaining strength, and Capt'n Bagot informed me that he was glad to hear of my being here, but his Physician thought I had better defer seeing him for a day or two. Lady and the Misses Bagot were very kind and friendly. I called there again yesterday twice; when he expressed the kindest anxiety to promote my interest as much as he can. I find he never saw nor heard of your application, he thinks it will be desirable for me to proceed to Toronto and see you and the land, and report to him if it is salubrious and free from Swamps, which he is informed is one great fault; however, he says, he should depend upon my judgment of it. I have mentioned the appointment of an *Emigrant Agent* and stated your experience, qualifications and *merits*, and from what I can learn I think you may have an annual Grant of Land in addition to the fixed salary; but this is to be pri-

vate as no appointment will be made at present. Col. Antrobus fixed to write me an order on Capt'n Jones, the Provincial Secretary, for my account of £17 4 4, but he not being here Capt'n Bagot waits his return from Montreal, and it having cost me to Kingston between £4 and £5 more than I expected, having to travel by sleigh after setting out, I shall feel much obliged by your enclosing to me, per return of post, 15 or 20 Dollars; and please to write particularly whether you will meet me at Toronto, or if I shall proceed to your farm. If you could also send the stick for His Excellency I think it would be a gratifying remembrance to him. Do not fail to enclose to me, and write per return of *First Post*; hoping you found Mrs. McVicar and your family all well, with best respects,

I am, my dear Sir,

Your's respectfully,

J. TIMMIS.

Rob't McVicar, Esq., }
Village of Norval. }

Kingston, 15th December, 1842.

My dear Sir,

After a long interview which I have had with Mr. Morin, of the Crown Lands Office, and naming the disappointment which numerous families and individuals

experienced who were invited to the Huron Tract for Settlement by the representatives of the Honorable Colonel Fraser and his Agents from no agent being there authorized to receive the monies, for such purchases as they chose to make, and locate them on the Lands ; and that there are now 150 to 200 heads of Families at St. Andrews and its vicinity waiting in suspense, since my arrival, orders have been given for the immediate survey and laying out of 12 Townships ; and as I have named your great experience and judgment in such matters, and named that you would undertake an agency, I am told you must make application, if you really wish it, for altho' Cap. Bagot will exert himself to promote my views, and a request from him has its proper weight, the Government you must know will not be trifled with. I have the satisfaction of seeing that the Townships of Bagot, Peel and Yimmistown, is laid out, and my friend Bouchette is now occupied by the Town of Bagot to be immediately laid out. I wrote you last week of my arrival, and to know if you wished me to proceed to Toronto, and also requesting you to oblige me with 15 or 20 Dollars per return of Post, as Colonel Antrobus' Salary is not yet receivable, and you have not attended to any one request. You will oblige me by enclosing the above amount of Cash, and name if you wish me to proceed to Toronto as according to the Governor's wish we may judge of the

Land from the 'Timber. Waiting your attention with the needful,

I am, dear Sir,

Your's respectfully,

JOSIAH TIMMIS.

Rob't McVicar, Esq.,

Kingston, December, 30th 1842.

My dear Sir,

Your favor of the 20th is duly to hand, and I presented your order upon Mr ———, who says he will pay it as soon as he can and says he has written you. I have been desirous to procure Aylwin's interest to promote my applications to the Council, and as he met me on my return on Monday from the Government House and very cordially invited me to visit him, as he had heard of my being here, I have since been with him at his house, and this morning accompanied him to his office, and had a long discussion with him, in company with Mr. Lafontaine, to urge the immediate Survey of the Huron Tract, and the inefficiency of the agents now there, and the tender of your services to undertake that most important duty. They wished me to see Mr. Morin again, the Commissioner of Crown Lands, with whom I have since had a long conversation; he was extremely courteous and promised

to promote my views in any thing that will benefit the Province. I read to him an extract from your letter discribing the fertility of those parts, with which he was much pleased, but stated as there was an Agent at Owen Sound and another at Garrafraxa, you had better look over one of the Townships that you thought best for your friends, and make a written application to be laid before the Council as the appointment would be one of greater responsibility than you seem aware of, and large sums of money will be paid into your hands. The Council say you will have to give securities to the customary Amount. Col'n Antrobus has not yet sent his order on Capt'n Jones, and of course I shall have to wait the arrival of my friends here. I must thank you for your Polite invitation to your dinner party, but wish to finish the business in hand here before coming on to your place. I am very glad to inform you that the Governor is recruiting in health very nicely. I wrote your Brother to accompany me to your place a fortnight back, and he seems as prompt a correspondent as yourself, for there is no reply from him yet.

With respectful compliments to Mrs. McVicar and your family, as well as to yourself, and wishing you a happy New Year,

I am, my dear Sir,

Your's respectfully,

TO ROB'T McVICAR, Esq.

J TIMNIS.

Kingston, January 5th, 1843.

Dear Sir,

I had the pleasure of seeing Captain Bagot this morning, and am very glad to inform you that his Excellency is getting in pretty good health again, he has gone out in his sleigh. I find there are such numerous application for the Crown Land Agencies; and those for Arthur and Sydenham Townships being already filled; from the Commissioner having handsomely promised that you shall have the choice of any Township you wish, as mentioned in my letter to you, as there are 8 more Townships on the road laid out between Sydenham and Arthur; you had better determine on one, and *come here on receipt of this*; as Mr. Bouchette will kindly give you every information on his maps; and it is likely he will go to the Saguenay below Quebec very soon, and I intend to accompany him. I think the next Township to Arthur will be best for you, as you might have your store there, and for your fishing you could purchase a Town Lot for £5 at Owen's Sound, and place your Brother there or else De la Ronde. Mr. — has not been able to pay your order; but his brother, Captain — is coming down from Toronto to collect his freight accounts, and you had better come with him and he will furnish you with such funds as you want. Now I must request your *immediate attention to this*, or else Mr. Morin will give the appointment to another; and I perceive by your Brother's writing that he is not

Competent. I therefore shall expect you on return of the Mail if Captain —— has set out, and bring any documents with you that may promote your interest, also do not forget the Governor's stick. There is about to be some change in the Council. I find I am too late for this day's Mail and have therefore been to Mr —— to see if his Brother had arrived, and he appears to think from your neglecting to write him, as you ought to have done, that you may be too careless or indolent to attend to your interest here with the Government, after all my exertions and applications for you: should this be the case, as I shall not now come on to Toronto, I must request you to write me per return of Post, such excuse as you judge proper, to exonerate me from any blame in formally applying to the Council for you, as Capt. Bagot was yesterday very inquisitive if your judgment of land was to be depended upon. I feel that my honor and credit are at stake, in having represented your qualifications and competency in such strong terms.

Mr. Bouchette says that the mouth of the Saugine River Townships will be best for you, now lying out. Relying upon seeing you per return of Mail,

I am, dear Sir,

Your's sincerely,

J. TIMMIS.

Rob't McVicar, Esq.,

Kingston, 16th January, 1843.

Sir,

Having taken an early and lively interest in the welfare and prosperity of the new settlement, at present forming under the auspices of Government, on the Shores of Lake Huron, and been actively employed during the whole of last summer in sending settlers there, I beg leave to tender my best services as an agent to settle with respectable families one or more Townships fronting on the lake and bounding on the Saugine River. Having traversed a considerable portion of that country made me acquainted with its soil, fisheries and resources. Touching respectability of character, talents and the necessary qualifications required to discharge successfully the important duties connected with an appointment of this high trust and responsibility, permit me to solicit reference to the accompanying documents, also to Sir John Franklin's narratives of his first and second Land Arctic Expeditions, and the narrative of Lieutenant Ingall, 15th Regiment of foot, of his Exploring expedition via the River St. Maurice, during the Summer of 1829. Should any further recommendations be required, references can be had to

The Hon'ble Matthew Bell, *Three Rivers*.

“ “ Baron Grant, *Montreal*.

“ “ Col. Alex'r Fraser, *Glengarry*.

“ “ Alex'r Grant, *L'Orignal*.

The McNab of McNab, *Ottawa.*

Peter Warren Dease, Esq., Commander of the expedition to, and Discoverer of the North West Passage.

Alex'r Buchanan, Esq. Queen's Council, Montreal.
The members of the Bar of Montreal, all the inhabitants of the County of Two Mountains, among whom I resided for Ten Years, and to the Inhabitants of all the Scotch Settlements in Canada West.

I am acquainted with the English, French, Gaelic and Indian Languages, and am also a practical Farmer.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,
ROB'T McVICAR.

The Hon'ble. A. N. Morin, }
Commissioner of Crown Lands. }

Kingston, 22nd January, 1843.

Sir,

I trust that the subject of the present application will justify the liberty I thus take in addressing you a second time. My domicile is in the Village of Norval, a distance of 214 miles from this place. From thence I was called down here by Mr. Timmis, merchant in Quebec, for the express purpose of waiting upon you, and receive my ap-

pointment as agent to settle one or more Townships in the Huron Tract, as you will see by his letter to me bearing date 15th instant.

The painful disappointment which I experienced at not finding an appointment open for me on my arrival here, can be more easily conceived than described. In the present state of the roads, the journey from and to Norval is harassing and dangerous, not to mention the heavy expense unavoidably attendant on so long a route. I have a large Family to support, and my circumstances in a pecuniary point of view are not so good as they were a few years past, I am therefore but ill prepared to meet disappointments and expenses of so vexatious a nature, particularly after the trouble and expense I was at during last summer in sending settlers to Owen's Sound. Under these considerations may I solicit the favor of your having the goodness to oblige me with a reply in writing to my letter of application of the 16th instant, in order that I may be enabled to take the necessary measures in directing the ulterior movements of the numerous families who where and still are making preparations to follow me to the Huron Settlement.

I know how unreasonable it is to trouble you with a communication of this kind, at a time when you are overwhelmed with business of importance, but your own experience hath long ere now taught you that how trivial soever the affairs of a private individual may appear

to the public, they are still of importance to himself and every one expects to escape neglect.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient humble Serv't,

ROB'T. McVICAR.

Hon'ble. A. N. Morin,
Commissioner of Crown Lands, }
Kingston.

Government House, March 6th, 1843.

Sir,

I beg to forward to you the papers. &c., belonging to Mr. McVicar, which I have read according to your wish, and which bear testimony to the high character of the owner. The Governor General's state of health quite prevents me bringing his case under notice I regret to say.

I am surprised and annoyed at seeing some letters from a Mr. Timmis to Mr. McVicar, who appears to have made use of the Governor General's name and my own in a way that he has not the smallest authority, and most perfectly unwarrantable, never having seen him at Kingston but once then without reference to any thing he states in his letter. I feel it necessary in consequence to put myself in communication with Mr. Morin, the Commis-

sioner of Crown Lands as he may have taken the same liberty there, and I recommend you to guard Mr. McVicar, against his placing too much confidence in him. Should Mr. McVicar not be going to leave Kingston, I would gladly see him if such should be his wish.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your humble and obedient Servant,

H. BAGOT.

To Thomas Hammond, Esq.

Kingston, March 18th, 1843.

Rob't McVicar, Esq.,

Sir,

Having witnessed such scenes of misery and distress for many years past among the poorer class of Immigrants, who are by far the greater portion of the number that yearly land on our shores, as were indeed calculated to harrow the soul of every philanthropist, and call into action every feeling of deep sympathy in their favor, I have been led to investigate the cause, and to endeavor to discover an antidote for those evils which, I am sorry to say, are daily on the increase. After mature deliberation and close application to the subject, I find that no less than a simultaneous burst of public indignation is likely

to rouse the authorities of the land to adopt measures for preventing a recurrence of the evils of the past ; therefore, Sir, the sooner something can be done for that purpose the better. I take the liberty of addressing you on the subject, hoping as the friend of the child of adversity, from the interest which you have always taken in the Immigrant's welfare, and the settlement of the waste Lands of the Province by a hardy and Loyal population, that you will use all your abilities and influence yourself and every effort to enlist into the service, men of talent and influence from every part of the Country, in order that overwhelming evidences may be produced to expose the folly of the present system, if such it may be called, of Immigration, as also the Land selling and granting, together with the miseries to which poor Immigrants are subjected after arrival here, and the vexatious delays and disappointments which thwart the purposes of such Immigrants as may arrive with some means; delays and disappointments which eventually induce them to cross the lines, to add fresh State and Territories to the already too widely extended Republic. As it is my intention to trouble you with a series of letters on this subject, I will merely draw your attention to a few lamentable facts which indicate "something rotten in the state of Denmark," something wrong in the policy presented both here and at home as regards Emigration; a policy which entails a train of miseries for years on the poor and ignorant

Immigrants, who listened to the speechifying syrens of Immigration. It is a fact in the first place, that while the Colonial Government sells no land under 8s. per acre, and that under stipulations beyond the power of the indigent settler to comply with, having only a few months allowed him to pay the whole amount, Agents remunerated by government, private companies and individuals, travel from the Dan to the Beersheba of the British Isles, urging these poor people to leave their ancient houses, where indeed they find but little encouragement to remain and Emigrate to the fertile wilds of Canada, where they may in a few years live in independance and comfort. Endless forests fine and fertile, swarming with deer ; Rivers and Lakes abounding with Fish, overshadowed with trees, abounding in sugar growing on land requiring no manure, and so productive as to exceed belief, are painted in such fanciful and fascinating colours and passed before the eye of the imagination, with such skill and effect as almost enough to set the poor creatures frantic with joy at their expected prosperity. But, mark the result ; families divided in expectations of soon meeting again in the arms of love and comfort, every thing is sold that is not required for the voyage to pay their passage, and the remaining portion of the money laid out in provisions, often less than will serve them on the ocean, in full expectation that on arrival in America employment is easily and readily obtained, wages ample and money plenty ; that

lands are cheap and easy of access ; terms of payment most liberal, and clearing the forest an easy matter ; but, alas ! once landed at Quebec, the delusion which drew them from home is vanished after being led by it, as by the *Ignis-fatuus* to the bogs, and marshes of troubles and difficulties of a new order requiring years of hard labour, present privations and future perseverance, resolutions and industry to overcome, flush with hope and confident of immediate commencement to prosperity the poor Emigrant leaves his family on the wharf and calls on the Emigrant Agent whom he thinks has every power of making him happy ; but, behold, he is handed over to another at the next port, by a line or two of writing, and a few pounds of Bread and Pork, and so on from one to another, till tired of going Westward with no better encouragement, he sinks down in despair, cursing the day he left his native home, or crosses the lines to the United States, throwing off his shoes the dust of his allegiance in the face of this portion of the British Empire, vowing to raise his arm against it, whenever a collision takes place betwixt both powers, and why ? Because he was disappointed at first, and next rejected by the Colonial Government, which prefers keeping millions on millions of acres in the state of native uselessness, and which may be unproductive for half a century to come, than to give the moneyless and working man a few year's credit, or make roads into the bosom of the forest whereby such

as could purchase land would have a chance of reaching it. The present system of land granting and selling is quite impolitic, and very injurious to the prosperity of the Country; it would be far better to warn Emigrants from leaving their homes, if they could not avail themselves of the terms which Government offers them, than laying out thousands of pounds yearly for their conveyance and sustenance, till arrived far in the West of Canada where they are allowed to scatter like sheep without a shepherd, on the mountains of want and difficulty, and in danger of falling into the mire of despair, whereby they are forced to cross the lines in anticipation of a better fate, and from which place, however willing, they cannot retrace their steps. Thus, Sir, is the Canadian Government turned into a nursery for bringing up hardy labourers and soldiers for their rivals the Americans, all from the pet notion that laying out money in making roads in the forest is not economical; and that it is unsafe to trust the hardy loyal Emigrant with £40 worth of uncultivated land, which land if left so for a century would not be one copper's worth of help to the country. I see that Mr. Merritt, in his letter to Lord Stanley, asserts that the production of the soil is the *true wealth* of the country. Government seems to admit the fact, but does not adopt the principle. Leaving this part of the subject for another day, let me draw your attention to the misery to which such poor Emigrants are exposed, when left on our

wharves unwilling to go further, and obliged to seek charity when employment is not to be had. Families are broken up and scattered over the country among strangers, exposed to every evil temptation never to meet again with their former innocence. Families young, modest and virtuous, are exposed to the idle gaze of the profligate and licentious; and to answer their unfeeling and impertinent interrogatories, much to the contamination of their morals, and finding themselves disappointed and left for days and nights on the wharves, feel themselves degraded, and consequently get careless of their conduct or character; and hence the great change which takes place in their morals, after arrival here. I shall leave the darkest shades of this picture untouched until another opportunity, as this communication is merely a rambling introduction to a series of letters which will follow.

I remain,

Your's respectfully,

THE TOURIST OF THE WOODS.

Kingston, March 21st, 1823.

Rob't McVicar, Esq.

Sir,

Having in my letter to you of the 18 inst. brought the miseries of deluded Immigrants under your notice,

earnestly soliciting your aid in bringing the matter before an enlightened public, with the intention of enlisting general sympathy in their behalf, and if possible to effect a change in the system adopted by the government for the disposal of the Waste Lands in this Province, as also to induce the Home Government to take into serious consideration the great importance of concocting measures whereby Emigration may prove a benefit instead of a curse to the parent state, as well as to the Emigrants themselves. I now beg leave to draw your attention to a few facts which, if well understood on the other side of the Atlantic, would open the eyes of the British Public to see plausible reasons, little thought of before, for the alienation of British feelings which increased by degrees in this Province for years, and ultimately burst forth in open Rebellion, a Rebellion which was suppressed through the loyalty of thousands whose British feelings drew them round the British Flag to protect its honor, while the usages they received in this portion of the empire, were sufficient to overcome the most devoted attachment to the British Crown, if that enthusiasm which British Subjects feel towards their country's power and glory did not, in a peculiar manner, outvie that of most other nations. Facts, Sir, which would satisfactorily explain the cause of that inveterate enmity, which thousands of British born Subjects living in the United States, bear towards the Government of this country. Great

indeed, must the loyalty of that man be, who can withstand for many years want, misery and neglect, in the land of his adoption, and that land British; while foreigners receive the cordial support and patronage of high officials, in posts of honor and lucrative situations, in preference. Great must the loyalty of that man be, that stands the brunt of national ingratitude and scorn for years, and the denials which cause him to seek a livelihood in an enemy's country, and swear fealty to a foreign power; whose aggressions were repelled by the loyalty of his forefathers, whose blood has been sacrificed at the shrine of British Glory, and is forced to say concerning this Province something similar to what our Saviour said to this world. Place hunting loyalty finds favor and support; Foreign speculators meet with encouragement; and Anti-British feelings, lucrative berths and places of honor; but the loyal son of a loyal British subject cannot get a place to rest his head on, nor a foot of land on credit, if he happens to be poor, on which to employ his strength, and by industry realize comparative independance, by which in a few years he might become its legal possessor, increasing not only both the true wealth of the country and the demand for British Manufactures, but the Power of the British Nation. It is a fact, Sir, which defies contradiction that, once, Upper Canada stood a monument of British Loyalty and of unparalleled attach-

ment of a neglected Colony to the Parent State, unequalled in the history of latter days ; and yet how are its defenders treated, and their friends and countrymen used, on seeking an asylum here from the hardships which they suffer in their native land, arising from a superabundant population and scarcity of land for cultivation ? In reply, I may refer you to the Act of Council which puts the waste lands beyond the reach of the poor Immigrants, being tantamount to prohibitory duty on all Loyal or British Subjects which the public Statesman, the Patriot and the Philanthropist endeavour to introduce for the double purpose of relieving their distress at home, and for the other beneficial purposes I mentioned above by which means, a liberal system of land granting or selling, and by the expenditure of a few thousand pounds yearly, in getting the Immigrant's interest watched from the time he leaves his ancient home, till settled in a new one here, a second British Empire of a loyal and contented race, glorying in the fame of their fathers and their father-land, would be formed or created here ere many years, whose power would equal its parent worthy of a Crown, and a King of England's Royal Blood to wear it ; an Empire, Sir, which would, following the steps of its parent, spread honesty and honorable principles, moral and religious sentiments, the spirit of improvement and adventure ; moral and political integrity, together with the blessings of arts and sciences, and civil and religious liberty over the

Western World. But it would appear, Sir, to a casual disinterested observer, as if the minds of the present rulers of the land were too contracted to harbour any idea, as that such would be possible, but it appears to me from the experience which I have had in the matter for twelve years past, as if it were the thing most to be dreaded even under every restriction which can be put on its progress. I could have mentioned many who have fallen victims to the notions of certain Officials of the Colonial Government regarding Emigration, and many more whose praiseworthy endeavours to settle the Wilds with sturdy and even wealthy settlers, were frustrated through stumbling blocks thrown in their way by some of the Government's Officials; but I need not go further back than the settling of Owen's Sound, and the Lands by the Garrafraxa Road. How many thousands, Sir, have been disappointed and disgusted with the manner in which that has been conducted? how many thousand enemies to British power and rule has it made of loyal subjects, and how many more is it making daily? With what feelings of indignation, do all men of honor or of honest principle receive the intelligence that such shuffling has been used between Government and its Agents, as is capable of depriving the poor man of not only the promised chance of purchasing the 50 acres adjoining the 50 of free grant, but the Grant itself, and all the labour and expenses laid out upon which, opportunity is to be taken

advantage of in the poor Emigrant's not being able to pay cash down, for the said adjoining 50 acres. Heavens ! is such conduct understood in the least by the poor Emigrant at home ? certainly not ; nor was it by me when I encouraged them publicly to come and take advantage of the offer. What will be their disappointment on arrival here, or the feelings of such as you and I, who took some pains in urging them forward, and how many more enemies will it make to the British Nation ere another year. If your own loyalty had not been of the highest order, how could it withstand your disappointments on finding that of the two thousand four hundred families which you had been mainly instrumental in forwarding to the Huron Tract last year, possessing wealth to the amount of £350,000, to expend in purchasing land and cultivating that fertile soil, few if any remained after the sacrifice of time and means which you have made to the cause, but returned disappointed and disgusted with the Agents of Government and Government itself, wreaking vengeance against them and packing up their all, crossing the lines, crying " What have we to do with Victoria or the daughter of the Duke of Kent, come, let us pitch our tent in the camp of her enemies ; " and so they did, to the present loss to the Province of £250,000, besides a much greater loss on a further time both in money and protectors of the soil, a greater loss by far than the desertion of the soil, a greater loss by far than the desertion of an entire Reg-

iment of hired Soldiers; but this is the policy of the Canadian Government, and who dare say nay. The produce of the soil being allowed on all hands to be the true wealth of the Country, its increase and its prosperity; hence it follows that the producers, if British subjects, bound by bonds of gratitude to the Government are its strength and bulwarks, the greatest pledge Britain can have for its remaining long an integral part of herself, and a guarantee for employment of her manufacturers at home, and her stability as a great nation abroad; yet, sir, all this is risked for the sake of fostering the pet scheme of the Canadian Government, for raising a fund for pretended present necessity by demanding 8s. per acre, for the waste land they have to sell, almost down; by which more men and money leave the Province yearly, than would maintain the glory of Britain single handed, ere but a few years in this country, against any force our neighbours could raise, which desertion from the Province comes two fold against us another day.

I have many applications from my native land for advice regarding Emigration, and all I can say is that I was informed lately at the Crown Land's Office that the best way of settling the country was to allow it to settle itself, by people paying for their lands and finding roads for themselves. I had at the time the offer of 800 heads of respectable families to settle in the rear of kingston, who could pay for the land if roads were made and agents

on the spot, to locate them on the lots apportioned for their ultimate destination and permanent homes, none of whom will come by Quebec but for the sake of a cheaper passage from home, free conveyance and rations from the Government till they get pretty far West, so as to require little time or expense to reach across to the Western Hemisphere.

Your's respectfully,

THE TOURIST OF THE WOODS.

Kingston, 6th, April, 1843.

My Dear Sir,

Now that Sir Charles Metcalf has arrived, no time is to be lost in submitting to his consideration all the documents in your possession illustrative of the important object you have in view; and in my humble opinion it is quite unnecessary for me to write one word more on the subject, or for you to collect any other information till such time as his Excellency's opinion may be had relative thereto. If the evidences you are to lay before him are not sufficient to rouse the mind of so highly talented and so able a Statesman, and according to all accounts so good hearted a man, no other effort of yours, or of such as feel as you do, will avail anything. I feel so confident that his Excellency cannot fail to make further enquiries

that I am fully of opinion that you will have ample opportunity of bringing before him such a mass of information regarding the evils which heretofore were so fruitful of baneful consequences to British power in this Province, arising out of an irregular Immigration and impolitic system of settling the Waste Lands of the Province as will be the means of affecting very important changes, unless, he like others before him, may be led to disregard truth unless emanating from higher quarters. I cannot for a moment doubt that his Excellency is well aware of the great importance of the preponderance of a loyal population in this province; the manifold advantages to be derived from settling the waste lands, with a hardy and industrious people; even should they be all poor, but much more so, if mingled with a proportionate number of small Capitalists, of which there will be no lack should proper encouragement be held out to them.

The great evil rests in too many of them coming out here yearly, and being obliged to go to the United States in search of what is denied them here; thus draining us of both a physical, mental, and monetary strength, thereby gives a compound ratio of power to that of our rivals. We have Agents encouraging Emigration travelling the British Isles, overcoming the minds of the people with the most flowery speeches, containing the most logical wholesale reasoning on the subject, calculated to attract the attention of not only them, who grasp at every thing, that

is likely to afford them relief through industry, but even such as are living in comparative independance, who forsake their native homes in search of a Paradise in Canada; but what is the result? they meet with disappointment, lose all faith in British Philanthropy, public engagements, and honor; and steer their course to the far West sworn enemies to the land of their Fathers; and is it any wonder? what have all the Immigrant Societies organized through the province done in the cause of those Immigrants who arrive through the persuasion of eminent orators, and on whom they depended on their arrival for guidance, information, aid and protection? nothing, absolutely nothing! When they looked for such bodies, all the information which they could find concerning them was that they were organized, but never had gone into operation!!! Where were the extensive tracts of fertile surveyed land, were the Poor were to have Grants, and the men of means have advantages of purchase? Where were the Roads leading to the unsettled portions of the Country which offered any chance of location to the swarms of houseless, homeless, moneyless and friendless families yearly arriving, entirely dependant on the generosity of Government? why, Sir, all these things were merely on paper, preparatory to being transferred to the face of the forest. What are the Emigrant Agents able to do, to whom the Immigrants are recommended and on whom they depend? nothing further than to inform them that

there is plenty of Land to be had in the Province from 8s. upwards per acre, but in general unaccessable for want of Roads. That the Canada Company are able to give more favorable terms than the Government, from which they purchased their lands, and if they proceed 3 or 4 hundred miles more to the West, if they have no means they, the agents, will give them conveyance and bread and Pork till they arrive there, or to some Port where work may be had. In the name of all that is good ; what kind of policy is this, or what is the poor Emigrant to think of a country whose Government with more than sufficient Land to contain the redundant population of Britain for centuries, listens with a deaf ear to the cry of the poor Emigrant, and who through false economy, leaves the vast untrodden regions of fertile soil unapproachable to both rich and poor !

I have seen them at home, sir, in all stages of want, poverty and misery ; for I made it my duty to travel for two years for that purpose in a capacity which afforded me access to the Halls of the great as well as the Cottage of the poor, yet I never saw any thing capable of drawing a bitter tear from the eye for the distress of strangers than I have witnessed here.*

* As it may be observed in a pamphlet that was published in Edinburgh, on the changes that took place in the County of Sutherland (Scotland,) entitled McLeod's Letters, and although there has been an attempt made to suppress their circulation by the local agents of that noble house, there was no effort made to contradict any one solitary fact therein contained.

I have travelled through Canada and the states, and I know the general feeling existing on the subject, and I hesitate not to say that it weakens British Power, love, and loyalty on this Continent, more than all our rivals the states could by any other means effect. I have as you know edited a journal in English and Celtic solely for the benefit of Immigrants for 18 months, through which I could draw settlers for hundreds of thousands of acres yearly to the country, but seeing that they came only to fill up our neighbour's territories and increase their commerce and revenue to our disadvantage, I discontinued it in utter despair, but if you will be more fortunate than such as followed the same tract before, it will be a source of gratification to yourself but of much more importance to the welfare of the Immigrant and British Power in America. That you may succeed, is the earnest wish of my heart, and if my feeble aid may be of any importance you shall not fail in receiving it, meantime I remain

Your's respectfully,

THE TOURIST OF THE WOODS.

[EMIGRATION]

For the British Whig.

Mr. Editor,

In my addressing you I would emphatically call to

the consideration of the British public, the immense importance of the subject of Emigration, upon which many useful letters have already been written at different periods ; yet, as there is a dormant spirit showing itself in the Canadas, as to its proper working by a regular system for the occupation and settlement of the Waste Lands, through the opening of Roads, with proper agents to whom the Emigrants must be referred to have such location of Land apportioned to him for his immediate settlement, a system which I am pained to find is little if at all attended to, I would ask what right has the Canadian Government, through its agents, to encourage Emigration, unless they couple with encouragement to the Immigrant, attention to his wants on arrival here, in forwarding him to such land as he may wish to settle either through purchase or free grant ?

Mr. Editor, as I am aware that your attention is directed to the well being of mankind, you will not, I trust, consider it intruding on any portion of your valuable time, that I should hereafter trouble you with communications respecting this serious subject, but altogether important to the future welfare and prosperity of this valuable appendage to the British Crown.

ARBORICUS.

Kingston, 3rd April, 1843.

To His Excellency, The Right Honorable SIR CHARLES
THEOPHILUS METCALF, &c., &c., &c.,
The Memorial of ROBERT McVICAR, Esq., &c., &c., at
present residing in the Village of Norval, near To-
ronto, Canada West,

HUMBLY SHEWETH :—

That the well earned reputation acquired by your Excellency in the various other portions of the British Dominions which has graciously pleased your Sovereign to confide to your care, for a careful and attentive regard to the best interests of the Crown and the prosperity of the community at large, induces your memorialist to approach your Excellency on the present occasion.

The subject which your memorialist thus ventures to bring under your Excellency's notice, so soon after your arrival on our shores, is of such vast importance as fully to plead in excuse the abruptness of his appearance before you, so immediately after the cares and fatigues of your voyage and to furnish in itself a sufficient apology. Your Memorialist earnestly trusts, in coming before you without the preliminary ceremony of a personal interview, in submitting most respectfully for your Excellency's careful perusal, the accompanying correspondence, communications and suggestions, on a matter of such vital interest as well to the Province of Canada as to the British Empire, to which every sincere Patriot and well meaning Philanthropist will unite in giving a cordial and

candid investigation, your memorialist can truly intimate, that nothing but a most devoted attachment to the British Crown, a most earnest wish for the prosperity of this valuable colony, a deep anxiety for its permanent continuance as an integral portion of the Empire, a sincere regard for the success of a wholesome Immigration for the permanent welfare, temporal and spiritual, of the Immigrant, and a fervent interest that unfortunate portion of his fellow countrymen at home, who have for years been depressed in their circumstances. Nothing but these powerful considerations, your memorialist would repeat could have induced him to address you on such a momentous question which may be treated by others more competent than himself, but by none more zealous, or more devoted to its prosperity. These were the motives which induced your memorialist instantly to attend to the invitation of a confidential friend of His Excellency Sir Charles Bagot, to appear here to accept the agency of one or more Townships then to be surveyed, in reference to which your memorialist takes the liberty of calling your Excellency's attention to the communications addressed to him by Mr. Timmis, and his letter to Mr. Morin still unanswered. But as your Excellency's Memorialist feels confident that, upon the fair consideration of the question depends the misery or happiness of the thousands that annually leave the British Shores, he hopes your Excel-

lency will excuse the liberty he has taken, in addressing you at a moment when so many matters of importance will no doubt for some time continue to engross your valuable time ; and should your Excellency feel desirous of acquiring some knowledge of your Memorialist's position and standing in society, and the character he has hitherto borne in British North America, your Excellency will find in the subjoined correspondence that he has resided the greater portion of his life in these Colonies, that he had the honor to be connected in a more or less degree with the first and second Land Arctic Expeditions to the Polar Regions, to which the published narratives will bear ample testimony, and that during the unfortunate commotions and disturbances of 1837 and 1838, he took an active part in suppressing these outbreaks and maintaining the supremacy of Her Majesty's Crown in this Colony, in all of which lines and positions he trusts he has done some service to his Queen and Country, thereby entitling him to be considered as one whose interests in the welfare of the Province arises from no sinister motives, but springs from a pure sense of loyalty and philanthropy.

That your memorialist has witnessed with painful feelings of regret, for many years past, many causes whose effects bear heavy on the prosperity of the Province, and which still exist although they might be very readily and easily removed, causes which if not attended to in due season, may prove more injurious to British

Interests than any of the political commotions which have hitherto occurred within the limits of the Colony.

Your memorialist would consider himself wanting in duty to his beloved Sovereign, to the Country of his adoption, and to the cause of humanity, were he to omit the earliest opportunity of bringing the matter before your Excellency, and to submit copies of various documents bearing strongly on the subject to which he solicits serious attention.

That the subject of the disposal of Lands, that are public, by sale or grant, and that of Emigration have for many years past attracted much of the public attention both in Britain and in Canada, yet in reality nothing has been done to remove the numerous evils to which the thousands of Emigrants who annually land upon our soil are exposed, nothing to foster a systematic Immigration, or to abolish an impolitic mode of disposal of the waste Lands of the Crown. These evils so far from diminution are on the increase, steadily though perhaps imperceptibly corroding the very strength of the British Power in North America, while every attention is bestowed upon the discord of parties and factions with the benevolent view of restoring an order of things which will produce amity and concord among people of different origins, politics, and feelings, and lead to the security of British power, a course which would more particularly lead to such re-

sults and destroy every hope of an ascendancy of an anti-British feeling, is almost wholly overlooked.

Your Memorialist considers this will be found in an efficient system of Emigration, whereby loyal British subjects might be encouraged to settle in this country, and a liberal system of land granting, suitable to the wants and circumstances of every healthy, hardy, and industrious Emigrant from the country. - The present system is in the opinion of your Memorialist, one of the greatest stumbling blocks to the cause of Colonial prosperity, and the nurture of loyalty and attachment to the Crown, and this principally on account of the lands being withheld from the poor Emigrant, unless he is prepared to pay eight shillings per acre in Cash, for want of agents sufficiently interested in the Immigrant's welfare and capable of bearing fatigue of mind and body in seeing them settled in the remote Townships, from the absolute absence of passable roads to and from the principal market-towns, owing to these causes thousands of Emigrants and Capitalists leave the Province with disgust, and become settlers within the already formidable territories of our rivals of the United States ; even after the great majority of them have been provided for and conveyed at the expense of our Government to the different ports of Canada West, while agents from this Province are traversing the British Isles, from one end to another encouraging almost every class of Emigrants to leave their native Shores, those who are

induced to take such a step, find on their arrival, their hopes disappointed, every resolution is paralyzed, and their loyal attachment to their legitimate Government so severely tested, that in too many instances they remove to another land, claim the protection of a foreign power, and swear fealty to a rival authority. To such an extreme point has this evil extended its influence, that no further back than last year, over 2000 families which your Memorialist had guided to the Owen Sound settlement, at a great sacrifice of time and means, have left for the United States with means to the amount of £250,000, and deprecating the Government of this Province as the cause of their disappointment.

Your Memorialist's feelings on this occasion may more readily be imagined than described, while millions of acres are lying waste, and uncultivated, and even unsurveyed, contrary to the promise of Government, upon which a population might have been settled that would have afforded two full regiments of loyal subjects, now seeking a home among our rivals.

Your Memorialist would beg leave to refer your Excellency's attention to page 35 of the accompanying manuscript. Instead of such neglect and apathy regarding the distressing circumstances in which these loyal people are placed after their arrival here, every attention should be paid to their wants, every care should be taken to encourage them to remain in this Province, and to induce

their friends to follow them. And this is humbly submitted.

ROB'T. McVICAR.

Kingston, April 16th, 1843.

King Street, April 18th, 1843.

Captain Higginson's compliments to Mr. R. McVicar, and begs to say that by desire of the Governor General, Captain Higginson will be happy to see Mr. McVicar on the subject of His Memorial, to day at four o'clock, or tomorrow, at 11 or 12.

Rob't Mc Vicar, Esq.

Sir,

The more I look into the subject of Emigration the more I see the necessity of bringing the matter before the immediate attention of the Governor General, of making the British public conversant with the great resources of this country, and with the means and modes to be adopted to make them available for the general good both of Emigrants and the British Empire. When I take into consideration the hundreds of thousands of pounds periodically distributed among the starving thousands of redundant population of the British Isles merely for, I may say,

momentary relief, or at most a temporary one, and great as these sums are, yet they are scarcely sufficient to keep the poor from actual starvation, and no sooner one supply for thousands is distributed, than a fresh call under the most appalling circumstances is made. I say, when I take into consideration the great probability of the continuance of the same, I feel surprised that some effort is not made by the British public, on whom such demands fall as a voluntary tax of a heavy description, and which is likely to continue so, to relieve themselves by degrees of such a burden by paying for the passages of so many thousands yearly, and applying to the Imperial Government for a grant of Land for such persons, or for land on terms at least as favourable as the Canada Company now offers. But I do not see any reason why two or three millions of acres should not be of more benefit to the British and Colonial Government given as free grants, or at any rate on easy terms to such persons, than to allow such land to stand unproductive for a Century to come. The district in the neighbourhood of Owen Sound if I remember well contains nearly two millions of acres, where the white man has not as yet cleared an acre, and when I look at the vast tract of country lying between the Georgian Bay of Lake Huron and the Ottawa River, unsettled to within a few miles of Kingston, a tract, through the centre of which water communication extends uninterrupted, with exception of a few portages, to the Ottawa, I feel aston-

ished at Emigrants coming here to seek Wild Land as an asylum from the misery which they suffer at home, for want of work or land whereby to raise the means of subsistence being refused land under 8s per acre, and that to be paid within a few months.

This last mentioned tract cannot contain less than 50,000 acres making every reasonable allowance for Lakes, Rivers, Rocks, and mountains as represented on the maps, the half of which will not, under the present system of land granting or selling, be settled for at least two or three centuries to come. Why then should not a road be made from Kingston to some point of the above mentioned water communications, betwixt the Georgian bay and the Ottawa, and give Emigrants 50 or 100 acres all along the route at proper distances, say of two or three hundred acres, leaving the rest in Government hands to be sold to such as may be able to pay for them; many of whom no doubt would be glad to do so when such settlement should take place, guaranteeing to them labour at a cheap rate from the poor who should be settled there. Why should not the same be done in the Owen's Sound Tract, more especially when by such a system the land in a few years would increase in value and price, so far beyond its present value, as to be sufficient to cover any loss which might be supposed to arise from granting or selling at a low rate every three hundred acres on each side of the principal Roads; should these two Roads be settled

in this manner. two extensive fields for operation would be opened to the poor Emigrant, and to the capitalist and speculator. The country would ere many years settle far into the Interior, forming a formidable reserve in time of war, of able bodied and faithful subjects, who, from the present system, are compelled to proceed beyond the lines, from whence they may pour their force upon us at a future period, for the gross neglect with which they were treated on their arrival in Canada.

I would ask any sensible man the question whether it would be more profitable or beneficial to this Colony and to the Empire, to have three or four millions of these acres of Waste Lands settled by a loyal, hardy, and industrious race of people to the amount of 50 or 100 thousand, leaving in the course of two or three or four years, six times as much for six times as many, who would pay for it, and embark their capital in various ways in these regions, than to have those same Lands unproductive, while the distant settlements of our neighbours swarm with disappointed British subjects.

It is my opinion if Government continues the plan of allowing the Land to settle itself, that it will never be settled unless the Americans take the liberty of doing it some day when Britain is stumbling over her interest, and withdraws her soldiery from the Province; yes, and when people will get so disgusted at these measures, which deny their countrymen a chance of settling, that

they will be careless in repelling the aggressions of the enemy, particularly when the majority of them, may be those very friends of theirs who left this Province disappointed. Would it not be a wise policy of Britain, to adopt measures, by which she could safely depend on the number of her yeomen in Canada, as well as on their loyalty, without being under the necessity of sending troops from home? would it not be a wise policy of her to look forward to the day when, by a proper system of land selling, of making great Branch Roads into the uninhabited Regions, and by such other measures as would be found expedient by the wisdom of her nobles, she might place a Vice-Roy of the Royal Blood to rule over this country by laws suitable to it, as ruling by Governors seems to be any thing but satisfactory or successful?

These matters which I wrote at random, I beg to lay before you, that you may digest them properly, and bring them into notice in which ever way you may think proper.

Your's respectfully,

THE TOURIST OF THE WOODS.

Kingston, 18th April, 1843.

Kingston, 29th April, 1843.

Sir,

In compliance with His Excellency the Governor

General's request, imparted through you to me, I beg leave to submit for his information the following plan and system; to provide for Immigrants and others, and for the successful settlement of the Waste Lands of this important Colony, now lying a dead letter to the British Crown, which I have embodied in as small a compass as the subject would permit with any degree of clearness, sufficient to render it susceptible of being properly understood to advantage, or used as the Ground Work of a plan of such national importance, as I feel assured it is in the Power of Government to make it.

But previous to my introducing my plan to the notice of His Excellency, I consider it absolutely necessary to explain the evils arising from the want of a regular system being established, and that in as few words as possible, having already had the honor of laying it at large before His Excellency. Leaving the evils to which Emigrants are generally exposed, for the want of a proper system of Emigration being adopted in the Mother Country, from the time they leave their native homes until they are landed in Quebec or Montreal; great as these evils are, I shall proceed to point out those to which they are subjected on arrival here.

In the first place, they are landed on our shores full of hopes and expectations, dreaming of happiness, enjoyment and prosperity which they have been led to believe were assuredly awaiting them, through the representations

made by agents from this country encouraging them to emigrate here, agents whom they understood were appointed by Government or sanctioned by it; and how could they otherwise think, when the British Press daily pours forth its eulogiums on the praiseworthy exertions of such individuals, and the munificence of the Canadian Government, which granted to the chief of the Apostles of Canadian Immigration *Five hundred pounds* for his able services in the cause, and when it had been published from one end of the British isles to the other, that Immigration Societies were forward in all parts of the province, to act in unison with his efforts to make the Emigrants comfortable on their arrival here. But, alas, no sooner are they landed on our shores, than ever vestige of their anticipated prosperity and happiness vanishes, as, in the first place those fertile lands which they expected would be granted to them on terms suitable to their circumstances, are placed beyond their reach, through the means of the present system, no lands being granted under 8s. per acre whether it be accessible by roads or not, and that 8s. per acre, or £40 for each Lot of 100 acres, to be paid down, or at least within a very few months. I would here beg leave to solicit His Excellency to meditate for a few moments on the feelings of these poor and helpless people, who thus disappointed after pushing their way up this Country, are compelled to seek daily labour at such wages as any one

chooses to give them in absence of the Land, which was their sole object before leaving home.

Heads of Families with their tender babes flocking around, enquiring of their parents, at every post they arrive, where was their future home, or how far was it yet away? what must be the feelings of the poor Parents when unable to reply, post after post is passed and yet perhaps no employment, night after night passes away during which, they sleep on the decks of crowded steam-boats, or in the hold of crowded Barges without changing clothes for weeks, and are finally landed somewhere to take up their lodgings generally in Immigrant Sheds, much crowded and full of disease, where they remain until employment is found for them. But how is it generally found? It is found by breaking up this hitherto happy and virtuous family in pieces; a son is sent to a distance among strangers, and a daughter young, innocent and inexperienced in the world, is hired out by the month, the parents know not with whom, or with what characters, and the remaining portion are obliged very often to remain behind while the Father goes onward to earn their bread. But even hard as this is, it could be borne with some degree of fortitude if there was any appearance of again meeting by winter, around the hearth of a permanent home, where even the most simple and scanty morsel could be enjoyed with love, hope and cheerfulness; but the present system

of Land settling denies it. I have here drawn a true picture of the state of thousands and thousands of Emigrants, who came here through the representation made to them at home, and who would never have come here to suffer as they must do for want of means to purchase lands, had they known the true state of things.

Let me next bring before His Excellency's notice another great evil, and that is one which falls to the lot of the man of some little means. He arrives here like the rest with his eye directed towards a lot of land, he counts over his 20, his 30, his 40, or even his 50 pounds which he had husbanded carefully and probably saved with penurious economy, for the purpose of feeding his family during winter, and for purchasing a cow, implements of forest husbandry, and grain to put in the ground in spring; but mark his astonishment and disappointment on learning that he must pay forty pounds for a lot of land, cash down, before he can get "leave to toil" on it, or rear a cot for the protection of his family from the weather. His hopes are blasted, he wanders from place to place for some other mode of living, until winter overtakes him, during which time (should he have laboured for money until then) his all is melted away in idleness for want of land to work on; in spring, poorer than ever, he resumes his travels westward, inactive in mind and unloyal in feeling. Often a person of this sort starts at once to the United States, where he can obtain a lot of land for

£20 or £25 of the finest quality, requiring less labour in clearing, and having the advantage of roads and a settled neighbourhood, as well as the enjoyment of the company of many of his countrymen who left Canada from the same reason.

The next evil which I would bring before His Excellency, is one which is more hurtful to the welfare and prosperity of this Province yes, and to the United Kingdom, than to the Immigrant himself; and that is, when a small capitalist arrives, and wishes to settle in the rear Township of some certain post he may feel inclined to choose as his final landing place, and when he finds that there are no roads made through such Township no agent to point out lots for him, and few if any settled therein, or probably the lands not even surveyed, he follows the same footsteps with the Immigrant who went last year to Owen Sound settlement, and who returning in disgust to Toronto, meet with thousands of their fellow countrymen possessing extensive means, then on their way to the same settlement, who wearied and being disappointed after hearing the report of the former party, retraced their steps with them and crossed over to the United States. Such is too often the case, and it can be proved that about one sixth of the Immigrants arriving here, and those chiefly of that class who possess the most means and who would be of the most importance to the colony, leave the Province in this way, and thus enrich and

strengthen a rival power. To enumerate the evils arising out of the present system would swell this document far above the size of that already laid before His Excellency, therefore I will briefly state that settlers are scattered so far apart in many instances for want of system, that they cannot help each other in health, far less in sickness. They have no preachers, teachers, or physicians. Females on certain occasions are, on this account, lamentable sufferers. The cause of religion and morality suffer by it beyond what people generally have any idea of. There is a loss of commerce, of trade, and of military strength in time of war, or otherwise, besides many other causes too numerous to relate, but which will shortly be put before the public for their information, in a work preparing for the press.

I shall simply remark on this head that the present system is quite inapplicable to the condition of both this country and the parent state, and entirely unsuitable to the wants of the great tide of Immigration which is flowing yearly to our shores with increasing force, I will therefore commence in detail my intended plan of settling the waste lands of the Province, with a few preliminary remarks. First, it is evident that it is Immigration that made the lands which are now settled in Canada so valuable as they now are, and raised the Province so high in the estimation of the parent state and of so powerful a support to the greatness of the Empire,

hence it follows that Immigration, if properly conducted and if facilities are afforded to the thousands that yearly arrive, to locate themselves according to their circumstances, will continue to produce similar and beneficial results. Millions of acres, now lying waste, and unproductive, will, ere many years, become valuable and the province so increased in power and strength and I may say, impregnable to a foreign foe; and as happily the Province is beginning to enjoy a political repose, party and factional animosities dying gradually away, every exertion should be made to attach the incoming strangers from the parent state to their adopted country, and to retain both themselves and their capital within it, instead of as is now the case, every thing being kept in a state calculated to wean away their affections to a rival power. If the present administration found on assuming the reins of Government, false systems and acts in existence, it is no reason that they should not make such improvements and retrenchments in this respect, as they do in others of less importance. If their policy be, as is set forth, to govern according to the wishes of the majority of the people, they cannot surely err in adopting a better system of settling the Wild Lands of the Crown, than that which is now become a crying evil, and one which will not fail, ere many years, to bring forth disastrous consequences. If Immigration is not required, if the lands are not inten-

ded to be settled, it would be an act of charity in the Government, to have it published in all quarters of the United Kingdom, that the people might avoid the heart-rending disappointments and sufferings they must meet here on arrival, and it is a duty which every well wisher of the Empire has a right to perform, to withhold from our rivals such vast strength and wealth, as is yearly drained from it, and conducted through Canada ; therefore I would humbly suggest to His Excellency the following system of settling the Waste Lands of the Province.

1st. To grant to every head of a family from 50 to 200 acres, according to the number of male adults in each family able to wield an axe, and drive a plough, for a certain number of years, free, if not possessed of capital to purchase ; allowing the settler sufficient means to maintain his family for one year and to purchase implements and grain to put in the ground, under stipulations of paying for the same in yearly instalments, after the first two or three years ; when, it may be safely inferred, sustenance for the family could be raised from the Soil, for the weaker portion of the family, while the stronger might labour on the Public Roads or Government Works, a portion of the time, to pay for the Land.

2nd. In order to facilitate the settling of the Waste Lands, great channels for the tide of Immigration should be opened to a considerable extent into the interior, in way of main roads, from the principle ports on the River

and Lakes, at the extremity of which roads, the nucleus of settlements should be formed, where a Town, or Village Plot would be laid out, and a Township or two surveyed, in which every third or fourth 100 acres should be reserved by Government for sale, at a future period, when the increase of settlers and improvements would render it valuable, like uncultivated land now in settled Townships, the property of Companies or Individuals, which lots would, ere many years, be readily bought up by small capitalists at more money than four or five such lots would obtain at the first formation of the settlement. My reason, for commencing the Settlement at the farthest ends of the main Roads is, that if once a good settlement was made there, the country, betwixt that and the landing place on the Lake, would sooner fill up and realize higher prices to Government.

3rd. Agents of the proper cast, should be placed in such Townships, with an assistant each, to point out the lots to the Immigrants; and such agents and assistants to be paid for their services, partly by land in their respective Townships, on which they were to be permanent settlers, thereby adding confidence to the energy of the settlers, and fulfilling their duty to the Government more faithfully, with more convenience and less trouble to themselves. Such agents to be men of Philanthropic feelings, of energy, mental and bodily capabilities, and fit not only to point out the lots to the settlers on paper, but also on the face of the forest itself.

4th. To place Immigrants, who might have come from the same section of country at home in one settlement for the first year or two, that they might have an earlier opportunity of having their own teachers and physicians, two things, the want of which, are seriously felt at first in new settlements, and I may add, more so, many years after, from the neglect of religious and moral cultivation, as well as the want of laying a good foundation for health.

5th. A good road to fertile soil is the most important object connected with the Immigrant's location, to draw them into the heart of the forest; for the want of which they confine themselves to thickly settled portions near the great thoroughfare on the Lake side; from which, on the least disappointment and inducement to cross to the United States, they will have every facility of leaving British soil for ever. A competent surveyor with a suitable party, accompanied by a man of scientific knowledge, should proceed to survey the route of such Roads, 40, 50, or 60 miles beyond the well settled parts of the country, the season previous to its being opened for location, that it might be ready for next year's Immigrants.

While the party, under the surveyor, are carrying on their duties, it should be the province of the scientific individual, not only to examine the nature of the soil and its productions on their route, whither of timber, fruit, grass or otherwise; its geological and geographical struc-

ture, at least along the line of roads and its vicinity; but also, to see that the said surveyor and his party prosecute their business energetically and faithfully; as from the evils now arising, and the losses that have been sustained by the Province, through the neglect of surveyors, their carelessness, delays and inaccuracies are of a magnitude not to be overlooked. Vast sums of money have been expended to no purpose, and parties have been known to be left for days together idle, while the surveyor has amused himself by hunting, fishing and visiting Lumberer's huts at the public expense. In opening such a road, another party of able men should follow, who were born or lived for some years in the country, and who were well acquainted with clearing the forest and making such roads as the party with the overseer would direct such Immigrants to perform, who might want temporary employment, before they proceeded towards a location, or were waiting until such a tract of country could be opened.

6th. Temporary Huts should be erected on this line of roads, for the accomodation of these parties while making the roads, at certain distances to suit their convenience, with an acre of land to be cleared, which huts would, next season and every succeeding season, be found exceedingly serviceable to Immigrants on their arrival, as temporary residences for the first season, until they could during the winter prepare others on the lands allotted to them, in the settlement or along the road; the acre of

cleared land to be prepared, to raise potatoes and such other vegetables as are known to come to maturity in proper season, even if not planted until the middle or the end of June. This temporary dwelling would be of incalculable benefit to young and weak families, along with an acre of ground, thus affording the same relief yearly to incoming families. The hut to be erected and the acre of land to be cleared, both by the first settlers, at the government expense.

7th. The expenses attendant on this, would be but small, compared with the benefits arising from it; and more so, when it must be borne in mind, that such locations would afterwards sell at greatly advanced rates: but, should they not, a small rent might be charged during their temporary residence, to be paid in money or produce, during the three years they were to occupy their permanent locations, without paying any instalments.

8th. As mills are of the utmost importance to new settlements, the government should cause them to be erected and lease them or afford such advantages to Capitalists by lease or purchase, as could not fail to enlist their enterprising attention, and advance the completion of such works or contracts, to be entered into, to have such mills completed according to certain plans and at a given time, under penalty of forfeiture and fine.

9th. The chief Immigrant agent, in such a section, should be chosen from among persons well acquainted

with forest life ; of an enterprising character and of Philanthropic feelings ; of good moral habits and energy of purpose, well acquainted with all the advantages of the forest and how such advantages could be used to the benefit of the Immigrant ; one, not only of sound judgment, but of undeniable character, who, on examination, is found to be well acquainted with the subject, and who is desirous of making himself useful to the strangers ; one who should take cognizance of the conduct of surveyors and agents ; and who is capable of conducting the business efficiently.

10th. That in such places as Owen Sound, the River Saugine, and the other parts of Lake Huron, which are known to have extensive fisheries in their vicinity, and which require only a little capital and proper management to produce immense profits to government and great relief in way of provisions to Immigrants, the chief agents should be men well acquainted with this branch of business, who should feel a pleasure in prosecuting the trade and who should attend to it not in their offices but on the open lake as well as on the shore ; and whose object would not be to pocket handsome salaries for reporting the services of others instead of their own.

As the prosecution of Lake Huron Fisheries are of immense importance, measures to avail themselves of their great income should be adopted by government instead of allowing enterprising Americans to carry on a

lucrative trade of it in our waters and on our very shores, to the amount of at least one hundred and thirty thousand Pounds yearly, as has appeared in the Public Prints, not much more than a year ago.

During the winter season as well as throughout the year all the Immigrants who might pour into the Huron Tract could be more than well supplied with food therefrom. This is no fanciful idea but one which can be well substantiated.

11th. The principle thing which the Immigrant of any small means stands most in need of on arrival, being a fixed home after leaving his native one, every attention should be paid to adopting measures for the purpose. If settlements of the above description were formed, where Capitalists would be encouraged to settle, there would be no danger of the poorer class wanting employment or sustenance: and if the poorest Immigrants were once located among them or in their vicinity, we should never hear any more of their distress. The most indigent that we have heard of, who came out in a body, were those, for two seasons from the island of Lewis, on the west of Scotland; whose lives I may say were preserved by subscriptions raised in Montreal and other places; and who if not placed on land, would continue a burden on society to this day; but from being located among and near others from the same part, their distresses were not afterwards heard of and they are now thriving rapidly. Du-

ring the troubles of 1837, and 1838, the young men, who to a man stood in defence of the Crown, were known to sell their rations of beef at a high price and to purchase oatmeal with the money, sufficient not only to maintain themselves, but as many more of the young and aged males and females of their friends, who were in want. Among the older settlers of the Eastern Townships where they were located, they dug Potatoes out of the ground at a certain per centage of the produce, by which and other such means they were enabled to live during winter ; and such, who had provisions granted them by way of loan, have paid it punctually and thankfully, and are now quite independant of pecuniary aid, such proofs of the little which a poor family requires, when placed in a home in the forest, are sufficient to urge the adoption of settling the Immigrants immediately on land, instead of granting a temporary relief by way of bread and pork while conveying them from one place to another for employment, without any fixed object or place in view ; and who, when winter arrives, are left to live on charity, without any hopes for spring.

12th. As the system is a plain and simple one, requiring no extraordinary outlay or exertions on the part of Government, farther than to lay out their large stock of Waste Lands on, as it were, a compound interest for the good of the Province, I shall merely mention that the

system may be summed up in the following few words, viz:—

1st. To grant to all Immigrants who cannot purchase, Land on 5, 6, or 7 year's credit, only charging them a small sum to pay for constructing the main road to the settlement, during the first three years.

2th. To open main roads, as before described.

3rd. To place well chosen agents in their settlements with one or two assistants.

4th. To erect a certain number of Huts, for the reception of Immigrants on their arrival, with an acre of land cleared and attached, on the line of roads, as stated in article 6th.

5th. To place Immigrants from the same parts at home, for the first two or three years, in the same locations, allowing all who may choose afterwards, when the settlements are formed, to settle where they please.

6th. To prosecute the Fisheries on Lake Huron, for the benefit of the province, as well as the relief of destitute settlers.

7th. To send the Immigrant immediately to his location on arrival. All that remains for me to do now, is to show, by the following calculation, the increase of population, by way of Immigration, it would produce in ten years, as also, the revenue which would arise from that increase, in way of taxes alone for twenty years, all of which under the present system would be

lost, as two or three years more must put a stop to Immigration altogether, under the present system; the country having taken an alarm at the increase of paupers and vagrants, without fixed homes, who are necessitated to procure a living by every means they can devise be they legal and just or not. Crime is on the increase, from the number that are thrown on the world without a place to lay their heads on, who would otherwise be useful and peaceable members of society, if located on land. The yearly expense to the country, arising from supporting offenders, in apprehending and incarcerating them, and every other expense attendant on prosecutions, would go a great length in settling some thousands. It has been ascertained, that the average number of Emigrants, for the last 12 years, was about 32,000 averaging 6,000 heads of families, two-thirds of whom were not able to purchase land and who were consequently spread about the country in quest of labour, and the same number may be expected this year, who will be obliged to follow the same tract, and so on yearly, until labourers and mechanics will exceed the number of employers; as a proof of this, mechanical and other labour is reduced in price one-third and in many cases more, since the commencement of the great Immigration of 1840, and the worst is that there is no employment for one half the number, notwithstanding the reports of immigrant agents, who conclude than when they get the poor immigrants off their

hands by finding them employment for a month or two, or three during the hurry of harvesting, being the time that most of them arrive, that they are provided for, throughout the year ; whereas, proofs positive could be produced, that the majority of them would have starved, if the public had not, from charity, supplied them with sustenance or employment for their mere maintenance ; so that, it is evident, that they become a burden on society or at least are unwelcome intruders. It is also well known, that they congregate in thousands to the Public Works, both here and in the United States, and travel from one place to another with their families, without any other object in view, but that of procuring the scanty necessities of life, without looking beyond the present day ; growing vicious in habits, immoral in conduct, riotous in behaviour and disturbers of the peace wherever they go ; who might, if located on land immediately after their arrival, have become respectable members of society. Hence it appears, that 4,000 heads of families may annually arrive for the period of ten years to come, as was the case for the last three years, unable to purchase lands under the present system, we shall at the expiration of that term, have 40,000 heads of families, equal to 200,000 souls, depending entirely on daily hire for sustenance, in addition to as many more now similarly situated very few of whom can ever save sufficient to purchase a lot of land on the only terms

now offered, if they should remain in the Province; the consequence of which will be, that we shall ere many years have alarming pauperism, crime and discontent, productive of the most disastrous consequences; whereas by a proper system, before the expiration of ten years, four millions of acres would be settled at the rate of, as above stated, 100 acres to every head of a family of 4000 yearly, the taxes of which, according to the following table, would amount £330,000, at the rate of 30s. yearly, for each family, being below the average of what would arise from increase of stock, Buildings, Cattle, &c.

EMIGRATION

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FAMILIES. YEARLY.	SOULS. YEARLY.	TAXES YEARLY.	AMOUNTS AT THE END OF TEN YEARS, FROM 1843, DECREASING YEARLY.	
4000	20,000	£6000	£60,000	from 1843, settled for 10 years.
4000	20,000	6090	54,000	" 1844, " 9 "
4000	20,000	6000	48,000	" 1845, " 8 "
4000	20,000	6000	42,000	" 1846, " 7 "
4000	20,000	6000	36,000	" 1847, " 6 "
4000	20,000	6000	30,000	" 1848, " 5 "
4000	20,000	6000	24,000	" 1849, " 4 "
4000	20,000	6000	18,000	" 1850, " 3 "
4000	20,000	6000	12,000	" 1851, " 2 "
4000	20,000	6000	6,000	" 1852, " 1 "
40,000 at £1 10, which in 10 years increase of	200,000	£60,000 makes an add $\frac{1}{3}$	£330,000	amount of Taxes in 10 years, from 1843 to 1853.
			600,000	amount of Taxes in 10 years, from 1853 to 1863.
			£930,000	
			310,000	for increase of improvements, &c.
			£1,240,000	total of Taxes in 20 years.

which sum of nearly a million and a quarter of taxes, would amount to within one fourth of the price put on such land at present, being for the four millions thus settled £1,600,000, - shewing that the bare taxes alone would in twenty years be equal to the amount demanded, cash down, and that 520,000 souls would be added to the population during this period, retrieved from want and misery and made respectable Citizens, occupying four millions of acres, which may be during that period in a state of nature and unproductive, no mention being made of such as can purchase land and may settle, the number of whom would be, at the ratio assumed for the last three years, in twenty-six years, 312,000 souls, in able circumstances. The next thing to be considered is the amount of mechanical labour required by these 40,000 heads of Families, who would otherwise be wandering in search of labour themselves, assuming at farthest that, after eight years of each successive yearly settlement, each head of a family would purchase a Waggon, Harness, two Ploughs, Harrows, &c., amounting in value to, at the least calculation, twenty-five pounds, in all £100,000 for the portion of each year's immigration, which, multiplied by that of ten years, would amount to one million of money in the course of the succeeding ten years; and if it were necessary to calculate upon the consumption of British manufactures, mills &c. the amount would appear worthy of trusting the Immigrant with a lot of land, which he

would in no way injure but improve, and could not take away. I have here merely taken into account the results of granting land to such as cannot pay cash down for it, and who are obliged to leave the Province, or become unprofitable to themselves and in a great measure a burden to the Province. I must further remark, that the trade for British Shipping, arising from their labour, would be of great value and productive of furnishing Seamen for the British Navy, sufficient for any emergency. As this subject requires no farther illustration to arouse intelligent minds to make the necessary investigation, for the purpose of adopting some system in preference to the one now existing. I will conclude by merely saying, that the condition of thousands of such Immigrants as have settled in the back Townships, at irregular and great distances from each other and in want of even passable roads, are in a state of misery, which is heart rending; but I shall only introduce one section, which is that settlement which of all others should produce the greatest share of comfort to the settlers but which, owing to mismanagement, (to use no harder expression) is now in a state, the most deplorable.

From the account given of it by the Revd. William Ryerson, who passed through it, on his return from a mission among the Indians, I learn that from the numbers who left on account of the lands not being surveyed besides other grievances, the few who remain are neigh-

bourless and unable, in any emergency in which they may be placed, to receive the aid of their fellow settlers at this season, owing to distance and unfinished roads ; and those who have expended their winter's provisions are unable to reach a market to purchase any thing, and in some instances they received even temporary assistance from their nearest neighbours, by undergoing indescribable hardships; in short, such were the scenes that Gentleman had witnessed, that his feelings were overcome to such a degree, that his heart felt pangs of sorrow, for the miseries of his fellow men, who were before strangers to it; the red man of the woods in his slender wigwam being many degrees more to be envied. From information, through other sources, it appears that the said settlement would have been, ere now, had the lands been surveyed, the roads finished, and every thing done in accordance with the proposed system, the most flourishing in the Province. Instead of the 2,000 Families which returned from it in August with £25,000 in their pockets, and who through disappointment went to the United States, it would now contain 10,000 souls in independent circumstances; half as many more with some small means, to support themselves for a time, and probably the like number of poor Immigrants who would find labour and support among them. In other parts, accounts have been received of families, in great distress, and of one

which actually starved to death from absolute want being at too great a distance from neighbours.

Having trespassed on the bounds to which I limited myself at first, and on His Excellency's time, permit me to solicit his careful perusal of this Document, which I trust he will take into his most serious consideration, and at his earliest opportunity. In the meantime,

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your most ob't and humble servant,

ROBT McVICAR.

To Capt'n Higginson, }
Private Secretary, &c. }

N. B. The annexed communication, a letter to Doctor Rolph Signed Y, in the Montreal Gazette, dated 22nd April, 1843, which came under my notice since writing the foregoing, is deserving the serio s attention of His Exeellency, corroborating my statement and confirming my views on this important subject.

Mr. McVicar presents his compliments to Captain Higginson, and would esteem it a favor if he would lay the accompanying Document before His Excellency the Governor General, at as early an hour as may possibly convient; Mr. McV. being unwell, feels anxious to return to his family at Norval, near Toronto, a distance of 214 miles from this, having remained here, labouring under painful suspence, attended with heavy expence since the 13th February last, waiting an answer to his

different communications to the Crown Lands Office, all of which remain unnoticed. He would, under these severe touches of feeling, take it kind of Captain Higginson, to convey to him the opinion and ulterior views of His Excellency touching the subject matter contained in said document, at any time before four p. m. 3rd proximo, in order that he may be enabled to take his measures conformably.

Daley's Hotel, 29th April, 1843.

Private Secretary's Office, 2nd May, 1843.

Sir,

In compliance with the request contained in your note of 29th. ultimo, I have had the honor of laying before the Governor General the communication which accompanies it. I am desirous to inform you in reply, that His Excellency had perused with great interest your suggestion for the introduction of an improved system of locating Immigrants on the Waste Lands of the Province, and to convey to you his approbation of the zeal and assiduity with which you have devoted yourself to so important a subject. His Excellency is unable to offer an opinion upon a question in which great and varied interests are involved, without being in possession of all the information within his reach, and with this view, has directed me to transmit your *Report* to the Commissioner of Crown Lands

for his consideration and remarks. The attention of that officer will also be requested, to your letters to him that remain unnoticed.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient and humble Servant,

J. W. HIGGINSON.

Private Secretary.

ROB'T McVICAR, Esquire.

Norval, 24th August, 1843.

Hon'ble Sir,

I beg leave to acquaint you, that I have a few days since received intelligence of the movements of the surveying party you sent out to the Saugine River in the Huron Tract, the party were in excellent health and spirits, and about completing the survey of one Township, a report of which will doubtless be transmitted to the Crown Lands Office, ere many days will have elapsed. The season is far advanced, and the numerous families who have made arrangements to accompany me there this autumn are very uneasy, and most anxious to reach their destination before the cold weather sets in, in order that they may be enabled to clear some land to crop in the spring, and build huts to pass the winter in, and take timely advantage of the fall fishing, considerations of great moment to them, and are applicable to all strangers settling

in the wilds of Canada remote from old settlements. Many families who went to the Huron Settlement late last autumn, suffered most severely during the winter from cold and famine; indeed their trials were so great that they became quite discouraged, and consequently unable to make the necessary exertions calculated to alleviate their wretched condition, even in the slightest degree. Hence the worst description is given of the settlement by these sufferers, which deters both poor and rich from going to it; in this way vast numbers of wealthy and industrious families remove from the Province to the United States, who, if they could meet with the least encouragement, would rather settle in any part of the British Dominions in America. In my report to His Excellency the Governor General, to which I beg leave to solicit reference, this subject is touched upon at some length, I need not therefore enter into further details here, as that report must be still in your possession.

Actuated and circumstanced as I am at present, harassed by countless applications from families to whom I am pledged throughout the Province, you may readily conceive how anxious I must feel to move for my winter Quarters where I would wish to be in time to enable me to make the necessary arrangements for the security and comfort of the party who are ready to accompany me, as well as those whom I expect will follow; may I therefore be permitted to entreat that you will have the goodness to

transmit to me your letter of instruction how to proceed to, and act after my arrival at the Saugeen River.

I have the honor to be, Hon'ble Sir,

Your most obed't and very humble Serv't,

ROB'T McVICAR.

Hon'ble A. N. Morin,
Commissioner of Crown Lands, }
Kingston.

Norval, 12th September, 1843.

Hon'ble Sir,

In respectfully soliciting reference to my communication of the 24th ultimo, to which I have not as yet received a reply, I would be much pleased and obliged were you to have the goodness to honor me with a few lines at your earliest possible convenience, in order that I may be enabled to take my measures accordingly.

The numerous families who have disposed of their property in the United Province, preparatory to their following me to the Saugeen River, are getting more impatient in consequence of the season being so far advanced, and their capital rapidly diminishing in supporting their families in a state of inaction, many other respectable families, possessing capital, who Immigrated this year after reaching Lake Simcoe on their way to join me in the new settlement in the Huron tract, returned on hearing that I was not before them to locate them on lands. These families have since crossed to the United States, where

no doubt they will advise their friends at home and abroad to follow them, hence the immense British Capital yearly pouring from the British Isles into the United States which by judicious management might be retained in the Canadas.

I remain, Hon'ble Sir,

Your most obedient

and very humble servant,

ROBT. McVICAR.

Hon'ble A. N. Morin,
Commissioner of Crown Lands, }
Kingston.

Village of Norval, 5th October, 1843.

Hon'ble Sir,

I had the honor of addressing you two communications bearing date 24th August and 12th September last, which remain still by you unnoticed. I would feel thankful, were you to have the goodness to favour me with a few lines on receipt of this, and state whether you received the communications above alluded to.

And with respect, I remain,

Hon'ble Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

ROBT' McVICAR.

Hon'ble A. N. Morin,
Commissioner of Crown Lands, }
Kingston.

Village of Norval, 9th November, 1843.

My dear Chieftain,

I was happy to learn through Mr. James McNab, that you are in Kingston, and in the enjoyment of good health and wonted cheerfulness of spirits, which proved a great source of pleasure and satisfaction to your friends in this quarter. On the 9th ultimo I had the honor of addressing a letter to your friend Sir Allan McNab, in which I enclosed an order to receive from the Hon'ble Mr. Morin, my manuscript, containing my report which I have written on the subject of Emigration and settlement of the Waste Lands of the Province, which manuscript, in the present state of things, may not prove altogether undeserving of his early notice and serious consideration. Every true Loyal Patriot, and sincere friend to the prosperity of Canada, will deeply deplore equally as I do, the present lamentable state of things, and the disgraceful manner in which the violent and angry debates that took place in the Legislative Council on the 10th ultimo were conducted, having no parallel in the history of any session of a British Parliament, and in their pernicious and fatal tendencies more calculated to create general distrust, destroy confidence, and eventually spread the baneful influence of a most dangerous and destructive contagion, throughout this unhappy and hitherto ill fated Province, than any calamity with which the Inhabitants thereof have yet been afflicted.

I am glad to learn through the public prints that Mr. Sherwood, who perused my Report, brought the subject on which it treats before the Parliament, and supported the reasonings and arguments therein set forth with his usual dignity of style and becoming energy of purpose. Notwithstanding the strong promises which the Hon'ble Mr. Morin made to me in your presence, that two Townships near the mouth of the Saugeen River, in the Huron Tract, would be surveyed this last summer for my superintendence to settle, that Gentleman not only neglected performing these his solemn promises, but would not even deign to acknowledge any one of those communications which I addressed to him on the subject and in which I clearly and explicitly stated all the arrangements I had made with the numerous families that were to accompany and follow after me to the new settlement in the Huron Tract. Strange as it may appear, still all these my letters yet remain unnoticed by Mr. Morin although they were addressed to him on service. This extraordinary breach of duty on the part of the Hon'ble Commissioner of Crown Lands, has placed me in a position the most awkward and painful, even to contemplate. By his criminal neglect, to use the mildest term, my fondest hopes are defeated, my time and means wasted, and the best interest of the country sacrificed to the gratification of private feeling, but what can we Loyalists in reason expect at the hands of the author of the 92 Resolutions which brought about the

Rebellion of 1837-8, now that he is placed in power by the very Government which he struggles so hard to subvert, and to annihilate its Institutions in Canada. All my friends who have disposed of their properties preparatory to their joining me in the Huron Tract finding my position with the Government holding forth such cheerless prospects, have since crossed to the United States, where their friends purpose following them next season. In this manner is Canada through the ill-timed policy and mismanagement on the part of the Crown Land Department converted into a nursery, daily furnishing the Government of the United States with additional wealth and strength which may, at no distant period, recoil upon the British Government with three-fold vengeance, when it may be too late to discover the apathy with which the leading Officers of the Crown in Canada seems to be at present so lamentably afflicted.

With sentiments of the highest consideration,

I remain,

My dear Chieftain,

Your faithful and oblig'd friend,

ROBERT McVICAR.

The McNab, of McNab.

Crown Lands Department, 21st March, 1844.

Sir,

I have been commanded by His Excellency the Gov.

ernor General, to tender you the situation of Inspector of Clergy Reserves, for the Western District, and I have to request you will please acquaint me forthwith whether you accept the said situation. The Inspection will be performed jointly by you and George Duck, Esquire, Harwich, and will have to be proceeded upon so soon as you have received the necessary instructions to that effect, and continue without interruption. The amount of allowance to the Inspectors has been fixed 15s. cy. for each per day, during the whole time they will be actually employed on this service, and also for a reasonable number of days in preparing their Returns. This allowance is to cover all claims whatever for travelling expences stationary &c. and to be strictly limited to the sum so fixed. Books of Returns will be furnished by this Department. It is expected that the Inspectors will fulfil their duties with speed and in a spirit of economy proportioned to the limited extent of the funds which will immediately result from the disposal of those lands.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient Humble Servant,

T. BOUTHILLIER.

Rob't McVicar, Esq.

Village of Norval 25th March, 1844.

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your

letter of the 21st Ins't, and in reply beg leave to acquaint you that I accept with every due consideration the situation which His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to offer me.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient humble serv't,

ROBERT McVICAR.

T. BOUTHILLIER, Esq.

Township of Howard, 23rd July, 1844.

My Dear Hammond,

You will naturally feel no ordinary degree of surprise at my long continued silence, for which apparent neglect, I have no plea of excuse to offer beyond a severe trouble of mind, which has not in the slightest degree diminished since the date of my last communication to you from Norval, parting with my family in a state of destitution, together with other touching and painful reflections, of a nature altogether so distressing as to preclude the possibility of sitting down with calm feelings to write to any one, and much less to a friend such as I have considered you to be since I had the pleasure of your acquaintance. Let me now, however, be permitted to express the hope, that you are long ere this time restored to the society of your beloved family, who, I trust, together with your good self are in the full enjoyment of the bless-

sings of good health, and every other accompanying comfort reasonably to be expected, while journeying through this transitory vale of life so full of troubles, pains, and afflictions.

A few days after my arrival in Chatham I met with my young associate Mr. George Duck, a very gentlemanly youth of pleasing manners and apparently obliging disposition, and on the 5th of last month we commenced operations and completed, as you will see by our Returns, the Inspection of the Townships of Orford, that same month. We are now actively employed in the Township of Howard, and expect to complete the inspection thereof by the latter end of this month. Our duty is very laborious and painfully fatigueing, travelling through woods and swamps under the influence of a scorching sun tho' occasionally under pelting rain storms. my aversion to Rattle Snakes, which are very numerous in this quarter, renders the duty to me more irksome and unpleasant than it is to my young friend, and as we advance westward, we will experience greater hardships, and fewer comforts than we have hitherto done. While journeying through the townships of Orford and Howard, we could always reach a kind of a Public house twice a week, but these comforts we cannot expect near the shores of Lake Huron where we must pass many a cheerless, and restless night, foul and stormy weather, distant from any human habitation. Speaking truly and candidly, I must

say, that I have been placed in an office, the duties of which are attended with greater labour and difficulties, than the Gentlemen at head quarters can by any possibility be aware of.

Although we have traversed many a good Lot of Land in the tract through which we have carried our operations, still we have met in our progress Lots upon which we found Squatters, correct and hard labouring families, who, for the articles of food, have been frequently driven to the necessity of leaving the mothers and youngest branches of the families in their wretched huts and seek for work wherever it was to be found, to keep them in life ; the Lots upon which they squatted after six and seven year's occupation and hard labour, so unproductive as to deny them any returns for their united exertions. These miserable and unfortunate creatures, willing soever as they may be to pay for the Lots which they thus occupy it, on the terms now offered to them, is altogether beyond their power to accomplish, and should they be dispossessed without sufficient time given or any indulgence extended to them to pay up the arrears of interest already due, in such case they will be thrown out on the wide world naked and with ruined constitutions in actual want of bread. The situation and circumstances, in which such poor miserable creatures as there alluded to, and there are many of them in this District, forms a subject too painful even to contemplate.

We have not as yet met with a family of the above description, but who are anxious to retain possession of their lots and are most willing to pay for them, provided the indulgence of time be extended to them. The Individuals who have had the good fortune of squatting on lots of fertile land, convenient to mills and market, will be able to pay for their lots conformable to the terms and stipulations laid down by the Governor. This far I must in candour admit, that I have experienced a great deal of kindness at the hand of the Inhabitants of this district, although I regret to state that a number of disappointed office hunters, are in the field pursuing my confrère and self with all the implacability of personal resentment, and strange to say, that too by Individuals that never saw or knew anything about us, to such criminal extent will wicked envy lead some of the disappointed children of the human family. We are, however, fully determined to pursue a line of conduct in the execution of our duty, that will bid defiance to the most crafty and malicious slanderer. Should any thing in the shape of a complaint of any description prejudicial to either of us reach your office, I trust you will have the goodness to give the same a flat contradiction as not having the slightest shadow of foundation in truth, but altogether emanating from envious and truly depraved minds.

- I had extensive communications from many parts of Great Britain previous to my leaving Norval, by which

it would appear that there is a great movement for an extensive Immigration to Canada this year, but should they meet with a similar reception as those who came out during the three preceeding years, the Wild Lands of this Province will continue in a state of unproductive forrest to the Government for centuries to come. Had the Governor General employed my services in settling the Huron Tract, instead of inspecting the Clergy Reserves in this district, I make no hesitation in stating that the Government would be benefited more in many ways, inasmuch that I feel fully convinced, I would be instrumental in retaining in the Province the thousands of wealthy families who have left Canada in complete disgust, and crossed over to Yankee Land, to swear fealty to that Government, and seek under its Star Spangled Banner that encouragement and protection which they in vain sought for at the hands of the Canadian Government. I trust you have brought my Report on this subject under the notice and consideration of your friend the Hon'ble DeBlaquire, if so, I would be glad to be made acquainted with his opinion and sentiments thereon at your earliest convenience.

Recent accounts received from Mrs. McVicar, conveys the gratifying intelligence of herself and children being in the enjoyment of the blessings of good health, they are making the necessary preparations to follow after me ; I have taken a small cottage for them conve-

nient to a good school within a short distance of the Village of Morpeth in this Township.

Have the goodness to convey to your Lady and every member of your family the assurance of my regard, and sincere best wishes for their temporal and spiritual welfare and oblige,

My dear Hammond,

Your ever faithful and affectionate friend,

ROBERT McVICAR.

Thomas Hammond, Esquire.

Township of Zoon, 1st August, 1847.

My dear John,

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of 24th ultimo, which I received at a late hour yesterday. With respect to the climate and soil on the south and north, and bordering on the Saskachewan River, from below Carlton House to the foot of the Rocky Mountains, a distance of about 1,000 miles from east to west, may be considered in every point of view equally favorable to colonization as the settlement of Red River, embracing similar advantages and disadvantages, with the exception of the danger that might naturally be apprehended from the numerous hostile tribes of Indians who inhabit that part of the country, and who are in a

continual state of warfare with each other, particularly those tribes that are spread over the country lying to the south and south-west of the river, who seldom visit the establishment of the Hon'ble Hudson's Bay Company. These would in my opinion, be apt to view with a jealous and suspicious eye, any encroachments upon their lands by strangers, more particularly by Europeans who had for their object the cultivation of the soil, and usurpation of their territory, which by the laws of nature they consider to be their infallible property being the aborigines thereof. According to my views and understanding of the subject of sending Immigrants to settle that remote portion of the Wilds of British North America, while there is ample room in Canada for the redundant starved population of the British Isles, I consider the scheme as altogether chimerical, and could only originate in the mind of an individual who has not given the subject that due consideration which it requires. If Mr. Sullivan has any serious desire of proving to the community at home and abroad, that he is actuated by the true and noble spirit of philanthropy let him at once obey the loud call that the voice of distress now resounding from one corner of the British Isles to the other is at this very moment making on his acknowledged pre-eminent talent, and without a moment's delay, clothe himself with the robe of humanity, the armour of compassion and the breast-plate of christian fortitude, and thus equipped compare

Notes with our present Governor General, and advise him to adopt forthwith, the system which I have had the honor to draft out at the request of the late Lord Metcalf, for the settlement of the Waste Lands of the Province. When these lands, including the 23 Townships in the Huron Tract, at present lying in a state of unproductive wilderness, shall have been successfully settled, the Government then may with safety and success continue to extend the settlement of the country from Lake Superior, through the shores of the Lake of the Woods, thence to Lake Winepeg, thence to Lake Cumberland, Saskachewan River, to the Rocky Mountains, and in course of time, the settlement of the country might be successfully extended along the banks of Beaver River, from Green Lake to the shores of Lesser Slave Lake, and thence west to the Rocky Mountains. The tract of country along the banks of the Pease River from, Athabasca Lake, otherwise called Lake of the Mountains, to the foot of the Rocky Mountains, is also susceptible of being settled, the soil thereof being rich and productive, and the climate salubrious. On the banks of the Saskachewan River, the snow begins to thaw about the first of April; the leaf begins to bud about 18th of that month, and all the trees are in full blossom about the 2nd June. About the 22nd October the forest is completely stript of its foliage; the frost sets in about the 30th October, and the snow begins to fall about the 5th of November, the ice in the month

of March, when it attains its full thickness, measures $3\frac{1}{2}$, feet when there is no current and the winter is unusually severe ; the average depth of the snow during a period of ten years has been ascertained not to exceed 2 feet 8 inches. The degree of cold during the months of January and February ranges from 15 to 38, and has been known as low as 42. The heat in the months of June and July is oppressive ; its degree in 1814 was ascertained in the shade, to be as high as 93 which accounts for the rapid vegetation on the banks of that river. Before publishing any report calculated to excite a general feeling in favour of colonizing these distant regions, Mr. Sullivan should cautiously ponder upon the subject, and by every means within his reach, first ascertain the extent of the difficulties and dangers to which the first settlement would be exposed, particularly, during the first years. The melancholy details connected with the history of the Colony planted by the Earl of Selkirk on Red River, from its first formation in 1812 to the year 1821, when the coalition of the Hudson's Bay and North West Companies took place, are of so harrowing a nature, as to furnish ample materials to form a subject calculated to enlighten the knowledge and direct the ulterior movements of Mr. Sullivan, in the adoption and execution of his fond and praiseworthy scheme, having for its object, the opening a field wherein to place the famishing inhabitants of Ireland and Scotland, thereby making a permanent provision for and relieving

them from the heartrending distress, under the pressure of which they have been so long suffering. In the event of Emigrants being sent from the British ports by way of Hudson's Bay, which is the shortest and cheapest way of conveying them, they must winter that year at or near York Factory, and they could only reach their destination in the Saskatchewan River the following autumn, at too late a period to do any thing else than to build temporary huts for themselves to pass the winter in, without any means to subsist upon till they could get crops out of the ground, which would be two years complete loss to them, besides the immense expense the feeding alone of them would amount to during that time, and I am aware that the trading establishment of the Hudson's Bay Company are seldom, if ever supplied with more provisions than is required to carry on their trade; and by sending Emigrants to the Saskatchewan, on the Ottawa Waters, by the means of canoes and boats, the expense would be at least double, and about the same time lost before they could get any crops out of the ground. Viewing the subject of planting a settlement on the banks of the Saskatchewan River in all its bearings, tendencies, and relations, it appears to me a point of serious doubt whether the Hon'ble Hudson's Bay Company, who are most tenacious of the powers, rights and privileges vested in them by virtue of their Royal Charter, would silently acquiesce in the plan, and afford the originator and friends thereof the benefit of

their cordial support, without the solemn assurance of which it would be, in my humble but candid opinion, the height of folly on the part of Mr. Sullivan, to embark in so arduous an undertaking. With this impression on my mind, I would most respectfully beg leave to recommend Mr. Sullivan to compare notes forthwith with Sir George Simpson, Governor in Chief of Rupert Land, and if he obtains from him the necessary assurance of his able co-operation and support, in that case, he, Mr. S. may rest perfectly satisfied, that every obstruction to his laudable views will be removed to admit of his plans being carried into successful operation

You are at full liberty to make use of this letter, with the advice and consent of your superior officer, as you may deem proper.

And with my good wishes for your welfare,

I remain, My dear John,

Your Loving Father,

ROB'T McVICAR.

Mr. John McVicar, }
Crown Timber Office. }



IMMIGRATION INTO NEW YORK.

The following Statistics furnish valuable information worth examination :—

Comparative view of Immigration for four years, at the port of New York.

NATION.	1849.	1850.	1851.	1852.
Ireland, . . .	112,501	116,382	163,256	117,537
Germany, . . .	55,705	45,402	69,883	118,126
England, . . .	28,321	28,125	28,553	31,275
Scotland, . . .	8,840	6,771	7,307	7,640
Wales, . . .	1,782	1,520	2,189	2,531
France, . . .	2,683	3,398	6,064	8,778
Spain, . . .	214	257	278	450
Switzerland, . .	1,405	2,361	4,499	6,455
Holland, . . .	2,447	1,174	1,798	1,223
Norway, . . .	3,300	3,150	2,112	1,889
Sweden, . . .	1,067	1,110	872	2,026
Denmark, . . .	159	90	229	156
Italy, . . .	602	475	618	353
Portugal, . . .	287	55	26	29
Belgium, . . .	118	230	475	82
West Indies, . .	449	554	575	265
Nova Scotia, . .	151	161	81	73
Sardinia, . . .	172	165	96	69
South America, .	33	103	121	120
Canada, . . .	59	61	50	48
China, . . .	9	11	9	11
Sicily, . . .	21	28	11	42
Mexico, . . .	23	41	42	22
Russia, . . .	38	18	23	33
East Indies, . .	34	32	10	13
Turkey, . . .	6	5	4	4
Greece, . . .	6	3	1	6
Poland, . . .	133	183	142	186
Arabia, . . .	8	—	—	—
Total, . . .	229,608	212,736	289,801	298,604

Number of passengers for the last 13 years who landed in New York.

1841 . . .	57,337	1845 . . .	82,960	1849 . . .	221,799
1842 . . .	74,949	1846 . . .	115,230	1850 . . .	226,287
1843 . . .	46,302	1847 . . .	166,110	1851 . . .	209,081
1844 . . .	61,002	1848 . . .	191,909	1852 . . .	310,335

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